

Bootstrap **Spanish** Grammar

Learn Spanish grammar step-by-step with over
200 topics and 3,700 examples

First Edition

Peter Vujanovic



Declan Software Ltd.

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For my girls

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Any errors are, of course, entirely the responsibility of the author.

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Preface

Bootstrap Spanish Grammar is a new way to learn Castilian Spanish grammar that focuses heavily on examples. Starting from the very beginning, the idea is progress in small self-contained steps (called 'topics'). Each topic includes a brief explanation of a grammar pattern and then provides lots of examples that illustrate the grammar. Each example includes its English translation, as well as notes highlighting how the example illustrates that topic's grammar. New vocabulary is also explained in the example notes as it is encountered.

And of course, when used in tandem with the mobile application, the audio pronunciation is available for every example.

The *Bootstrap Spanish Grammar* is for English-speaking pupils and students of Spanish at the introductory stage. It assumes zero knowledge of Spanish grammar or vocabulary.

The companion mobile app

This is the companion book to the *Bootstrap Spanish Grammar* mobile application. The iOS and Android apps can be downloaded from the app stores using the following QR code links:



The application contains all the same content as this book but with the addition of high-quality native speaker recordings of all examples. So, if you prefer to have the grammar set out in book form but would also like to be able to listen to the example sentences, then the book/app combination is perfect for you.

The book and app are easy to coordinate using QR codes. Just use the app to scan the QR code in the title bar of any topic in the book and the app takes you straight to the app topic where you will find high-quality audio examples matching the examples in that topic of the book.





❖ Personal Pronouns and The verb *estar* - 'to be'

The Spanish verb **estar** means 'to be'.

But unlike 'to be' in English, **estar** is only used for 'temporary states'. The other 'to be' verb is **ser** and it is used for permanent states.

- So **estar** can be used to say 'I am here' (temporary state) but NOT 'I am Spanish' (permanent state).

Estar is its infinitive (or dictionary) form of the verb. And it conjugates depending on who or what is the subject of the verb - just like 'to be' does in English: 'I am', 'he is', 'they are' etc.

Below are the present tense conjugations of **estar** with the singular subject pronouns:

- **yo estoy** - 'I am'
- **tú estás** - 'you are'
- **él está** - 'he is'
- **ella está** - 'she is'

So we say that **estoy** is the **yo** conjugation of the verb **estar**. Likewise, **estás** is the **tú** conjugation, and **está** is the **él** or **ella** conjugation.

The examples below illustrate how the conjugations of the verb **estar** are used. And new vocabulary is also introduced.

EXAMPLES:

1 **yo estoy**

I am

💡 **estar** ⇒ (**yo**) **estoy** - 'I am'

2 **tú estás**

you are

💡 **estar** ⇒ (**tú**) **estás** - 'you are'

3 **él está**

he is

💡 **estar** ⇒ (**él**) **está** - 'he is'

4 **ella está**

she is

💡 **estar** ⇒ (**ella**) **está** - 'she is'

5 **Yo estoy feliz.**

I am happy.

📖 **feliz** (adj) (mf) means 'happy'

6 **Él está feliz.**

He is happy.

7 **Ella está feliz.**

She is happy.

8 **María está triste.**

Maria is sad.

📖 **triste** (adj) (mf) means 'sad'

9 **José está de acuerdo.**

Jose agrees.

📖 **de acuerdo** means 'agree' or 'in agreement'

10 **Él está a tiempo.**

He is on time.

📖 **a tiempo** (adj) means 'on time'

11 **Ella está tarde.**

She is late.

📖 **tarde** (adj) means 'late'

12 **Tú estás temprano.**

You are early.

📖 **temprano** (adj) means 'early'

13 **Ella está de acuerdo.**

She agrees.

14 **María está lejos.**

Maria is far away.

📖 **lejos** (adv) means 'far (away)'

15 **José está cerca.**

Jose is close by.

📖 **cerca** (adv) means 'close(by)' or 'near(by)'





❖ The verb *ser* - 'to be'

The second 'to be' verb Spanish is **ser**.

While **estar** is used for temporary states, **ser** is used for permanent states or characteristics.

The present tense conjugations of **ser** are as follows:

- **yo soy** - 'I am'
- **tú eres** - 'you are'
- **él es** - 'he is'
- **ella es** - 'she is'

EXAMPLES:

1 **yo soy**

I am

💡 **ser** ⇒ **(yo) soy** - 'I am'

2 **tú eres**

you are

💡 **ser** ⇒ **(tú) eres** - 'you are'

3 **él es**

he is

💡 **ser** ⇒ **(él) es** - 'he is'

4 **ella es**

she is

💡 **ser** ⇒ **(ella) es** - 'she is'

5 **Yo soy español.**

I am Spanish (masculine).

📖 **español** (m) means 'Spanish' (masculine) or 'Spaniard' (masculine)

6 **Ella es española.**

She is Spanish (feminine).

📖 **española** (f) means 'Spanish' (feminine) or 'Spaniard' (feminine)

7 **Él es estadounidense.**

He is American.

📖 **estadounidense** (mf) means 'American' (from the United States)

8 **Yo soy estadounidense.**

I am American.

TOPIC 2 ❖ The verb *ser* - 'to be'

9 **Ella es feliz.**

She is happy.

💡 Using the verb **ser** rather than **estar** implies that she feels happy in general about her life, not just at a specific moment.

10 **Tú eres amable.**

You are kind.

📖 **amable** (adj) (mf) means 'kind'

11 **Él es amable.**

He is kind.





❖ Verb Negation with *no*

In Spanish, negating verbs is straightforward - just insert the word 'no' before the verb.

So for example: **yo estoy** ('I am') ⇒ **yo no estoy** ('I am not').

It can be used to negate almost any verb including both **estar** and **ser**.

EXAMPLES:

- 1 **Yo no estoy feliz.**
I am not happy.
- 2 **Él no está feliz. Él está triste.**
He is not happy. He is sad.
- 3 **María no está aquí.**
María is not here.
 **aquí** (adv) means 'here'
- 4 **Yo no estoy allí.**
I am not there.
 **allí** (adv) means 'there'
- 5 **José no está de acuerdo.**
José does not agree.
- 6 **María no está lejos. Ella está cerca.**
María is not far away. She is close by.
- 7 **José está cerca. Él no está lejos.**
José is nearby. He is not far away.
- 8 **Yo no soy español.**
I am not Spanish (masculine).
- 9 **Ella no es española.**
She is not Spanish (feminine).
- 10 **Él no es estadounidense. Él es español.**
He is not American. He is Spanish.
- 11 **Tú no eres amable.**
You are not kind.

TOPIC 3 ❖ Verb Negation with *no*

12 **Ella no es feliz.**

She is not happy.





❖ Plural Personal Pronouns - *nosotros, vosotros & ellos*

In this topic we cover the plural pronouns.

In Spanish there is a distinction between masculine and feminine plural pronouns. Here we introduce the masculine ones. The feminine plural pronouns are covered in the next topic.

Note also that Spanish has a special plural 'you' form - **vosotros** - as in 'yşall', 'you guys' - a group of people being addressed.

The masculine plural pronouns and their **estar** conjugations are as follows:

- **nosotros estamos** - 'we are'
- **vosotros estáis** - 'you (plural) are'
- **ellos están** - 'they are'

The masculine plural pronouns and their **ser** conjugations are as follows:

- **nosotros somos** - 'we are'
- **vosotros sois** - 'you (plural) are'
- **ellos son** - 'they are'

EXAMPLES:

1 **nosotros estamos**

we are (temporary)

💡 **estar** ⇒ (nosotros) estamos

📖 **nosotros** means 'we'

2 **vosotros estáis**

you (plural) are *OR* 'you guys' are (temporary)

💡 **estar** ⇒ (vosotros) estáis

📖 **vosotros** means 'you (plural)'

3 **ellos están**

they are (temporary)

💡 **estar** ⇒ (ellos) están

📖 **ellos** means 'they'

4 **Nosotros no estamos aquí.**

We are not here.

5 **Ellos no están aquí.**

They are not here.

6 **María y José no están lejos. Ellos están cerca.**

María and José are not far away. They are close by.

7 **Nosotros estamos de acuerdo.**

We agree.

8 **Ellos no están de acuerdo.**

They do not agree.

9 **nosotros somos**

we are (permanent)

💡 ser ⇒ (nosotros) somos

10 **vosotros sois**

you (plural) are (permanent)

💡 ser ⇒ (vosotros) sois

11 **ellos son**

they are (permanent)

💡 ser ⇒ (ellos) son

12 **Nosotros somos españoles.**

We are Spanish.

💡 **españoles** is the plural form of **español**

13 **Ellos no son estadounidenses.**

They are not American.

💡 **estadounidenses** is the plural form of **estadounidense**

14 **Vosotros sois amables.**

You (plural) are kind.

15 **Ellos son felices.**

They are happy.





❖ Feminine Plural Personal Pronouns - *nosotras, vosotras & ellas*

Spanish has both masculine and feminine forms of all the plural pronouns.

The feminine plural personal pronouns are characterized by an '-as' ending:

The feminine plural pronouns are:

- **nosotras** - 'we (feminine, plural)'
- **vosotras** - 'you (feminine, plural)'
- **ellas** - 'they (feminine, plural)'

Their **estar** and **ser** conjugations are the same as the masculine plural pronouns.

Note that when there is a mix of males and females in a group, they are referred to using the masculine plural pronouns.

EXAMPLES:

1 **nosotras estamos**

we (feminine) are

💡 **estar** ⇒ (nosotras) **estamos**

📖 **nosotras** means 'we (feminine)'

2 **vosotras estáis**

you (feminine, plural) are

💡 **estar** ⇒ (vosotras) **estáis**

📖 **vosotras** means 'you (plural feminine, plural)'

3 **ellas están**

they (feminine) are

💡 **estar** ⇒ (ellas) **están**

📖 **ellas** means 'they (feminine)'

4 **Nosotras estamos aquí ahora.**

We (feminine) are here now.

📖 **ahora** (adv) means 'now'

5 **Ellas están allí ahora**

They (feminine) are there now

6 **Vosotras estáis cerca.**

You (feminine, plural) are close by.

7 **María y Martina están allí.**

Maria and Martina are there.

TOPIC 5 ❖ Feminine Plural Personal Pronouns

8 **nosotras somos**

we (feminine) are (permanent)

💡 ser ⇒ (nosotras) somos

9 **vosotras sois**

you (feminine, plural) are (permanent)

💡 ser ⇒ (vosotras) sois

10 **ellos son**

they (feminine) are (permanent)

💡 ser ⇒ (ellos) son

11 **Nosotras somos españolas.**

We (feminine) are Spanish.

12 **Ellas no son estadounidenses.**

They (feminine) are not American.

13 **Vosotras sois amables.**

You (feminine, plural) are kind.

14 **Ellas son felices.**

They (feminine) are happy.



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