

Mundus Spanish Course

Lección 3

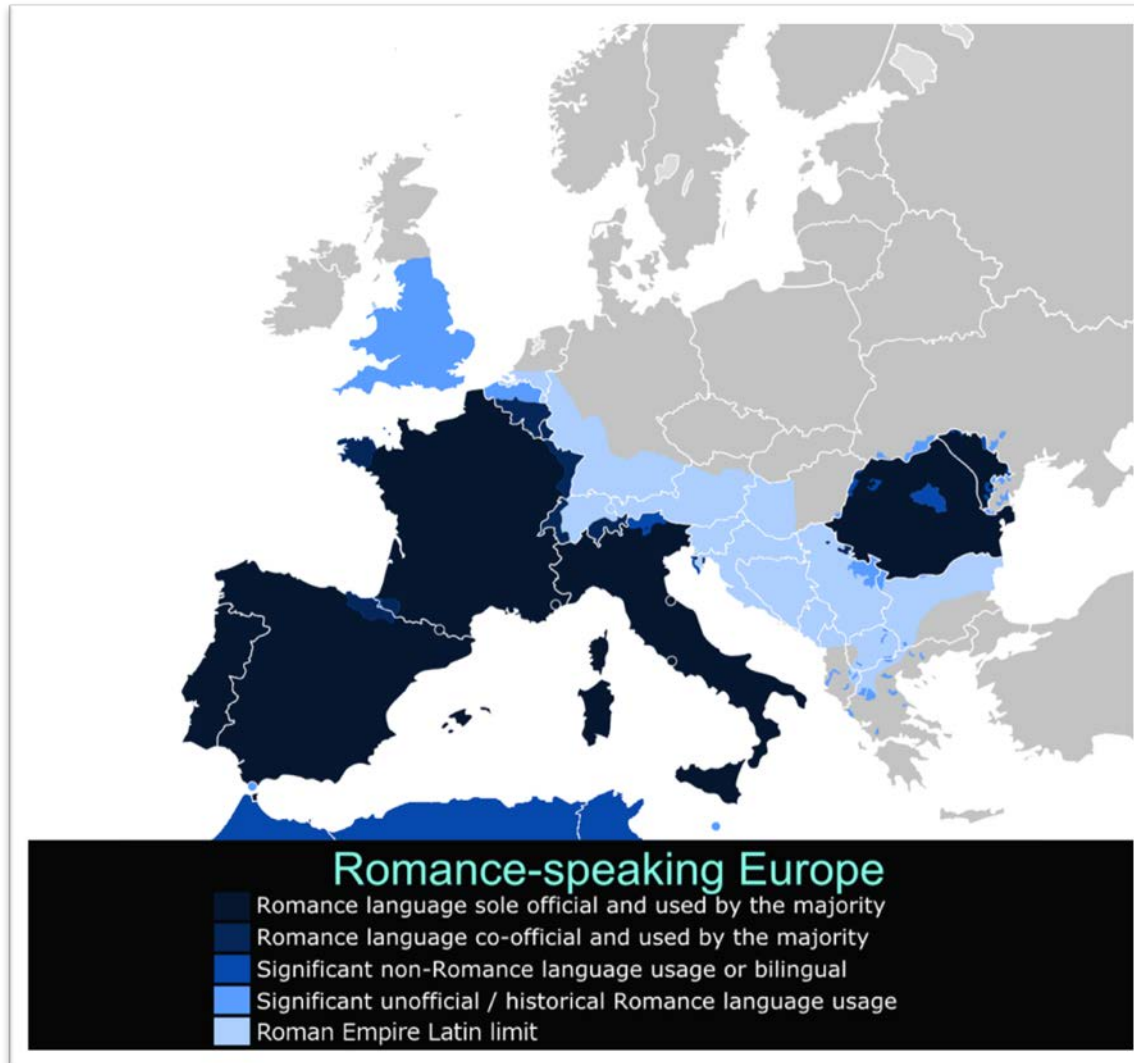
Breve historia del castellano

Verbos ser y estar

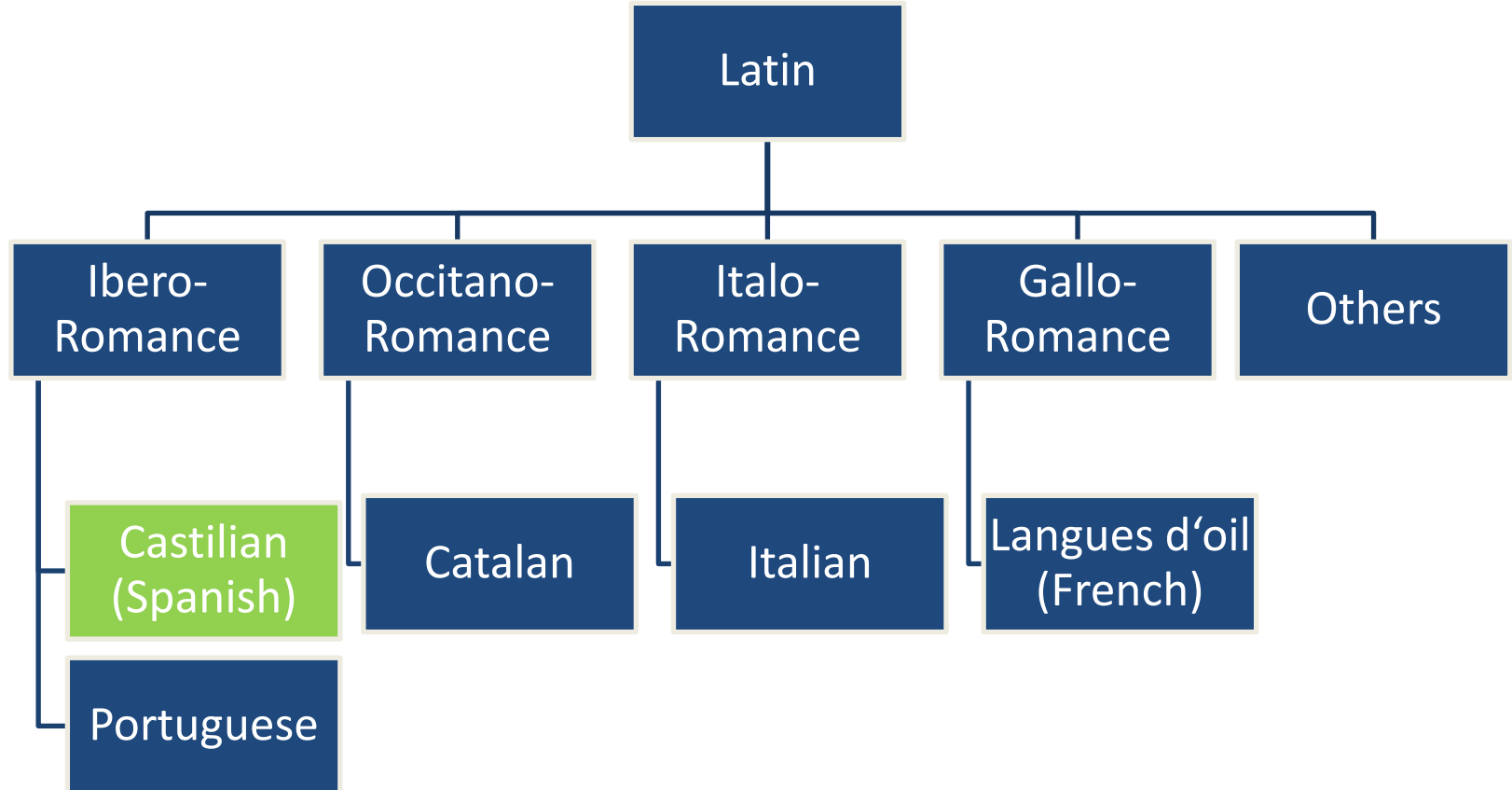
Roman Empire at its greatest extent



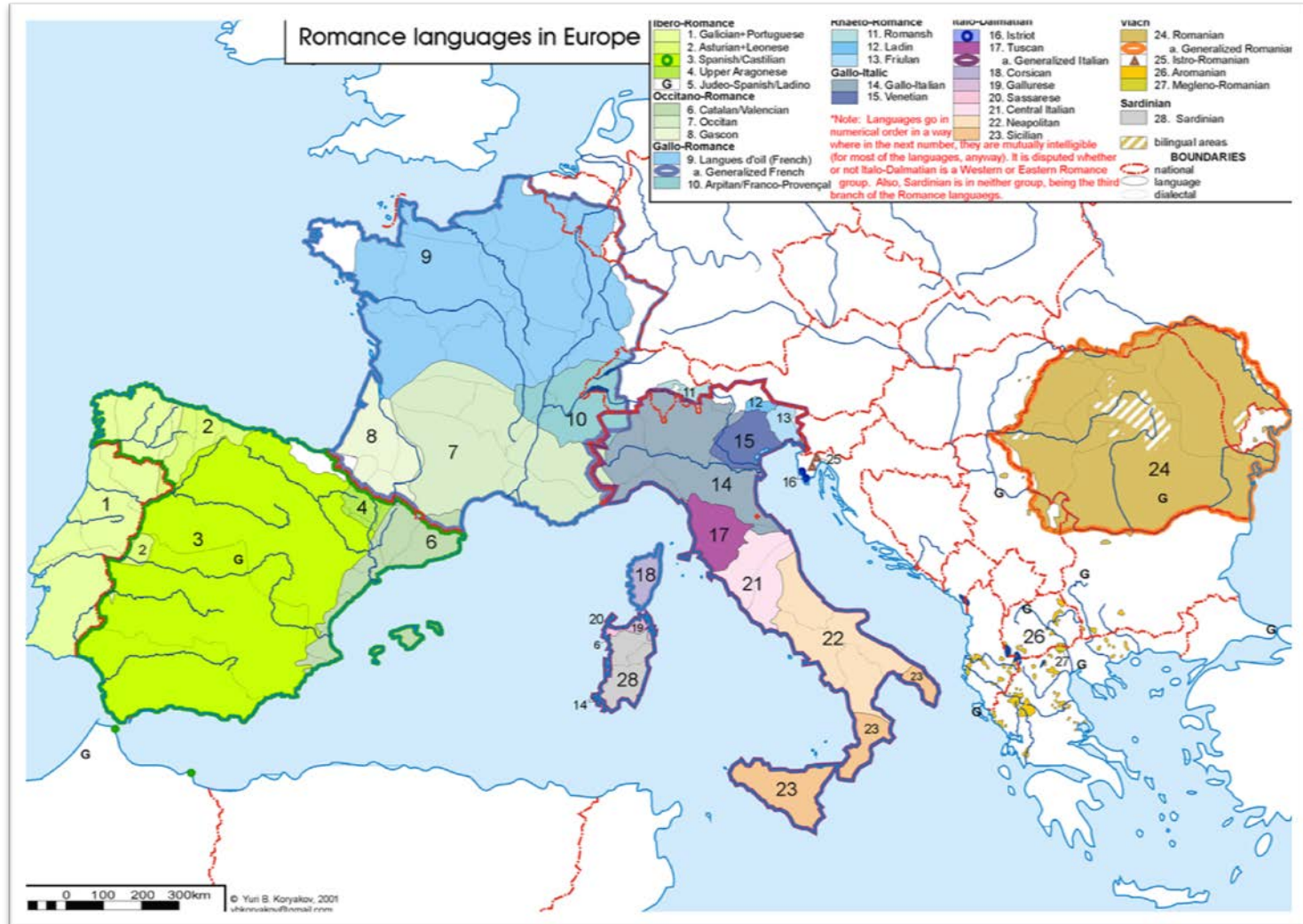
Latin Europe



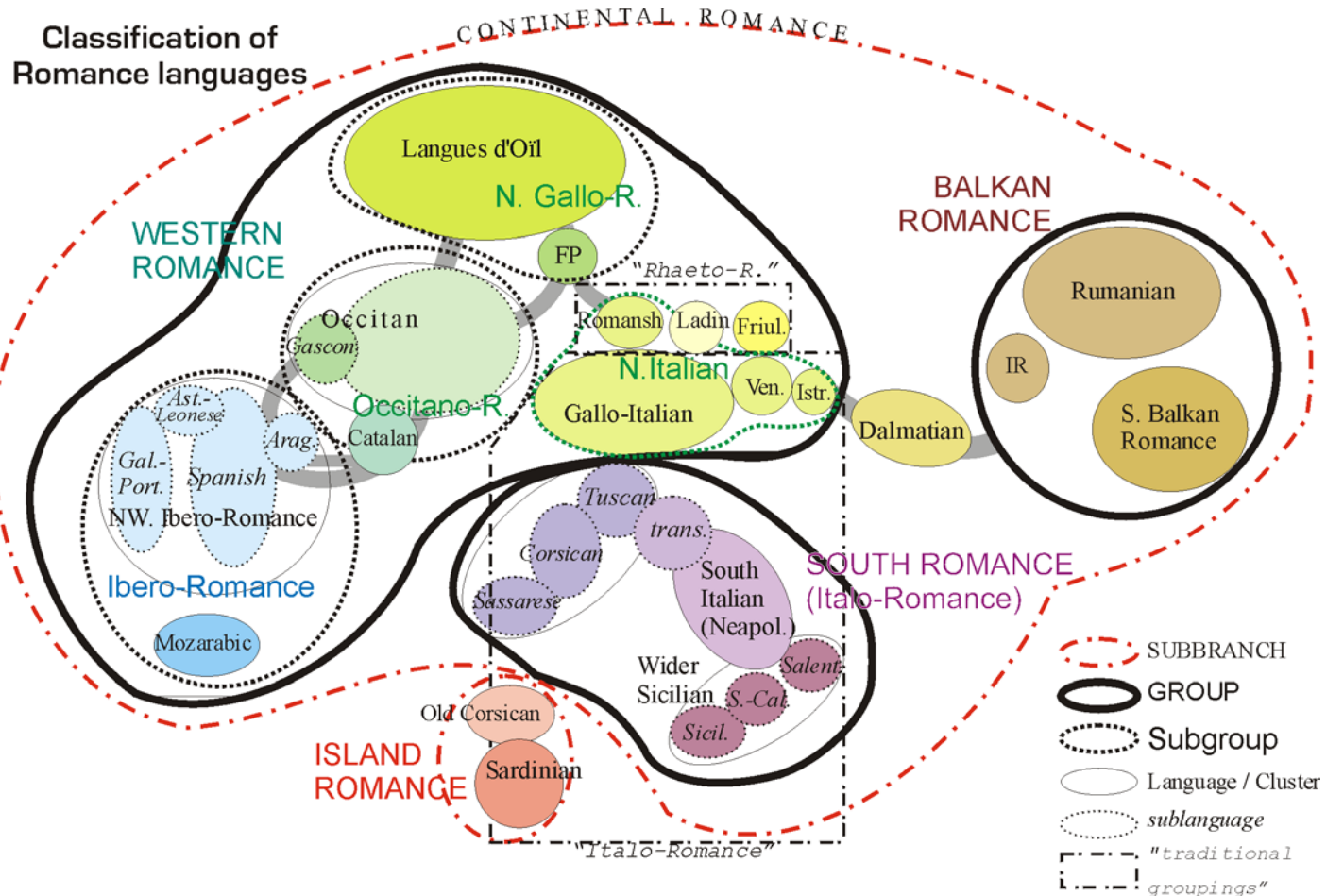
The Family of Latin Languages



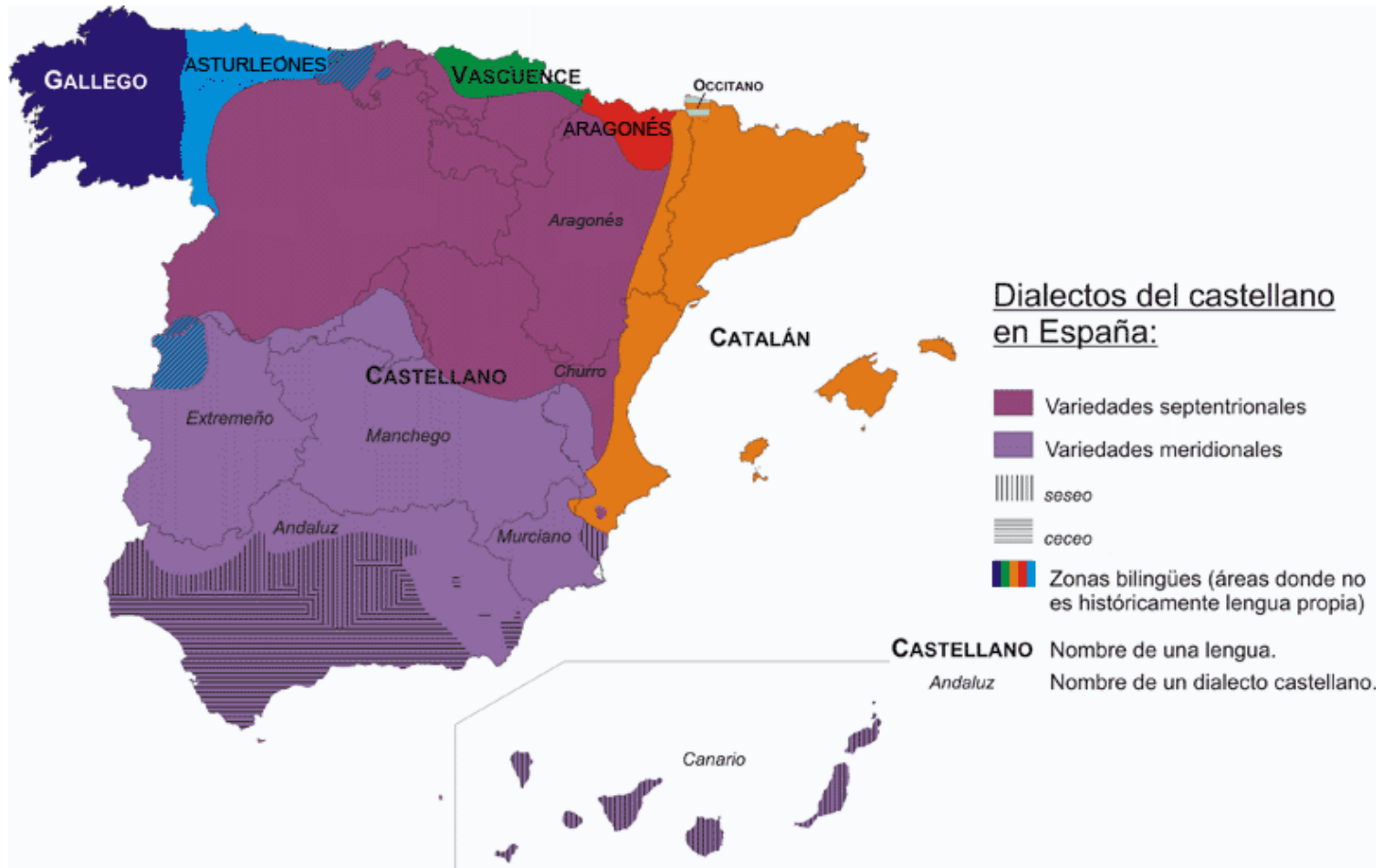
Romance Languages



Romance Languages Classification



Languages in Spain



Evolution from Latin to Spanish

Mechanisms:

- Syncope – Deletion of unstressed vowels
- Elision – Deletion of consonants
- Lenition – Softening of consonants
- Diphthongization – creation of diphthongs
- Reduction of consonant clusters
- Vocalization – changing consonants into vowels
- Merger of **/b/** and **/v/**
- Latin **/f-/** to Spanish **/h-/**
- Interchange of liquids **/l/** and **/r/**

Syncope (deletion) of vowels

- operam → opram → obra (work; cf. opera)
- populum → poplum → poblum → pueblo (people)
- computare → comptare → contar

Elision (deletion) of consonants

- **b** → ∅ vendē**b**at to vendía
- **d** → ∅ – ped**d**em to pie (foot, s. pedestrian)
- **g** → ∅ – digit**u**m to dedo (finger, s. digit)

Lenition (softening)

- **p** → **b** [β] – **populum** to **pueblo** (people)
- **t** → **d** [ð] – **cīvitātem** to **ciudad** (city)
- **c** → **g** [ɣ] – **focum** to **fuego** (fire, s. focus)

Diphthongization

- **e** → **ie** – **petra** to **piedra** (stone; cf. petrol)
- **o** → **ue** – **fontem** to **fuenta** (fountain)

Consonant cluster simplification

- **ct** → **t** – **respectum** to **respeto** (respect)
- **mpt** → **nt** – **promptum** to **pronto** (soon; cf. prompt)

Vocalization

- **p** → **w** – bapt**is**mum to baut**is**mo (baptism)
- **p** → **w** – dē**bi**tam → deb**d**a → de**u**da (debt)
- **b** → **w** → \emptyset – dub**i**tāre → dub**d**ar → dudar
- **ct** → **ch** – noct**e**m → noch**e**

Merger of /b/ and /v/

- **Classical Latin:** vivere → uiuere
- **Old Spanish:** bimir → biβir
- **Modern Spanish:** vivir → biβir

Latin /f-/ to Spanish /h-/

- **fabulāri** → **fablar** → **hablar** (speak; cf. fable)
- **fōrmōsum** → **fermoso** → **hermoso** (beautiful; cf. form)

HOWEVER:

- **fortis** → **fuerte** (strong; cf. fortress)
- **florem** → **flor** (flower)

Interchange of liquida /l/ and /r/

- parabola → palabra (word; cf. parlay)
- papyrus → papel (paper)
- miraculum → milagro (miracle)

Verb *ser* (to be)

Pronoun	Conjugation
Yo	soy
Tú	eres
Él / Ella / Usted	es
Nosotros / Nosotras	somos
Vosotros / Vosotras / Ustedes	sois / son
Ellos / Ellas	son

Verb *estar* (to be)

Pronoun	Conjugation
Yo	estoy
Tú	estás
Él / Ella / Usted	está
Nosotros / Nosotras	estamos
Vosotros / Vosotras / Ustedes	estáis / están
Ellos / Ellas	están

Use of *ser* and *estar*

The verbs have two main different functions:

- **Predicative:** the verb describes an action (the vast majority of the verbs are predicative in nature). It does not need a complement to have a meaning.
- **Copulative:** the verb modifies the subject with the help of a complement.

Predicative use of *ser*

It can mean “to exist” or “to take place”

Examples:

- “Dios es” – “god exists”
- “El congreso es en París” – “The congress takes place in Paris”
- “El concierto es a las siete” – “The concert starts at seven o’clock”

Predicative use of *estar*

It can mean “to be situated” or “to feel oneself to be”

Examples:

- “¿Está Miguel?” – “Is Miguel here?”
- “El aula está en el primer piso” – “The classroom is on the first floor”
- “¿Cómo estás?” – “How are you feeling?”
- “Las llaves están en el cajón” – “The keys are in the drawer”

Copulative use of *ser**

***Ser* + NOUN**

- To identify and classify:

“Mi hermano es Juan” – “My brother is Juan”

“Ésto es un libro” – “This is a book”

- To tell the marital status of a person

“Él es casado” – “He is married”

“Es soltero” – “[He/She] is single”

- To indicate possession

“¿De quién es la maleta?” – “Whom belongs the bag?”

“Es mía” – “[It] is mine”

*There is no official form in Spanish for the verb *estar* + Noun, when this is not the subject of the sentence

Copulative use of *ser* (cont.)

***Ser* + NOUN**

- To determine origin (+ prep. “de”)

“Soy de Seúl” – “I’m from Seoul”

- To indicate the materials an object is made of (+ prep. “de”)

“Es de oro” – “[It] is made of gold”

- To indicate price, quantities and numerals

“Son diez euros” – “It costs ten euros”

“Dos por dos son cuatro” – “Two times two equals four”

Copulative use of *ser* (cont.)

***Ser* + NOUN**

- To tell the days of a week

“Hoy es lunes” – “Today is Monday”

- To tell time

“Son las doce” – “It’s twelve o’clock”

- To tell the date

“Hoy es el diez de enero” – “Today is January 10”

HOWEVER: you can also say “*estar* + a”

“Estamos a diez de enero”

- To indicate a profession

“Soy estudiante” – “I’m a student”

HOWEVER: you can also use “*estar* + de” to indicate temporary jobs

“Juan está de camarero por el verano” – “Juan is working as a waiter during summer”

Copulative use of *estar*

***Estar* + MODAL ADVERB**

- “Estoy bien” – “I’m fine”
- “Está mal” – “It’s wrong / bad”
- “Está mejor” – “It’s better”

Copulative use of *ser* and *estar*

***Estar* + ADJECTIVE**

“*Estar*” is used to indicate a “states of mind, body, etc” where a change from a former one is implied. One can use adjectives that are subject to change while others that are also irreversible.

Examples:

- “Él está enfermo” – “He is sick”
- “El agua está fría” – “The water is cold”
- However: “Su padre está muerto” – “His father is dead”

Copulative use of *ser* and *estar* (cont.)

***Ser* + ADJECTIVE**

“*Ser*” indicates an inherent or permanent property of the subject. The speaker then does not imply that there is a change from a former state.

Examples:

- “Él es egocéntrico” – “He is egocentric”
- “Ella es generosa” – “She is generous”
- “El hielo es frío” – “The ice is cold”

Copulative use of *ser* and *estar* (cont.)

***Estar / Ser* + ADJECTIVE**

Exceptions:

There are adjectives that have different meanings depending if one uses them with “*ser*” or “*estar*”

- “*ser* bueno” – “to be good hearted”
- “*estar* bueno” – “to be good looking”
- “*ser* educado” – “to be well mannered”
- “*estar* educado” – “to be well educated”
- “*ser* grande” – “to be big”
- “*estar* grande” – “to have grown much lately”

Copulative use of *ser* and *estar* (cont.)

- “*ser* igual” – “not to have differences”
- “*estar* igual” – “to not have changed recently”
- “*ser* listo” – “to be intelligent”
- “*estar* listo” – “to be ready”
- “*ser* malo” – “to be evil”
- “*estar* malo” – “to be sick”

Summary: verb *ser*

		Function	Example
Predicative	-	To exist	“Dios es”
		To take place	“Hoy es la clase”
Copulative	+ NOUN	To identify	“Él es Juan”
		Marital status	“Él es soltero”
		Possession	“Es mío”
		Origin	“Es de China”
		Material	“Es de oro”
		Price, quantities, numbers	“Son diez euros”
		Day, time, date	“Hoy es lunes”
		Profession	“Soy estudiante”
	+ADJECTIVE	To indicate a permanent quality	“Es generoso”

Summary: verb *estar*

		Function	Example
Predicative	-	To be situated	“El aula está aquí”
	-	To feel oneself to be	“¿Cómo estás?”
Copulative	+ MODAL ADVERB	-	“Está bien”
	+ MODAL ADVERB	-	“Está mal”
	+ADJECTIVE	To indicate a state were a change from a former one is implied	“Está enfermo”
	+ADJECTIVE	To indicate a state were a change from a former one is implied	“Está frío”
+ADJECTIVE	To indicate a state were a change from a former one is implied	“Está muerto”	