

Ser vs. Estar: Household Sorting Hunt

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will correctly choose between ser and estar based on permanent characteristics versus temporary states or location.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- index cards (10+)
- marker
- household objects and rooms for reference

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. On 5 index cards, write sentences using 'ser' for identity, characteristics, origin, time, or profession, some in English to translate and some already in Spanish.
2. On 5 more index cards, write sentences using 'estar' for location or temporary states and feelings.
3. Shuffle all 10 cards and sort them into two piles, SER and ESTAR, based on the reason the verb is used, then check yourself against your notes.
4. Walk through your house and write 3 new original sentences describing rooms using 'estar' for location, and 3 new sentences describing objects using 'ser' for characteristics.
5. Write a short 4-sentence Spanish paragraph describing yourself, using both ser and estar at least twice each correctly.

QUESTIONS

1. Which verb, ser or estar, do you use to describe where something is located?

-
2. Which verb do you use to describe someone's permanent personality trait, like being funny?

-
3. Translate: 'I am tired' (a temporary state).
-

4. Why does Spanish use two different verbs for 'to be' while English only uses one?
