

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #2 Hello, I'm American!

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SPANISH

1. MICHELLE: ¡Hola! Soy Michelle. Soy costarricense.
2. CARLOS: ¡Hola, Michelle! Yo soy Carlos. Soy estadounidense.

ENGLISH

1. MICHELLE: Hello. I'm Michelle. I'm Costa Rican.
2. CARLOS: Hello, Michelle. I'm Carlos. I'm American.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
estadounidense	American	adjective	masculine
costarricense	Costa Rican	adjective	
puertorriqueño(-a)	Puerto Rican	adjective	
inglés	English	noun	masculine
español	Spanish	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Él es estadounidense. "He is American."	¿Eres costarricense? "Are you Costa Rican?"
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Son Puertorriqueños. "They are Puerto Rican."	William Shakespeare era inglés. "William Shakespeare was English."
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¿Hablas español?

"Do you speak Spanish?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Countries, nationalities, and ethnicities:

los Estados Unidos ("The United States")
estadounidense ("American")

Puerto Rico ("Puerto Rico")
puertorriqueño ("Puerto Rican")

Costa Rica ("Costa Rica")
costarricense ("Costa Rican")

Inglaterra ("England")
inglés ("English")

España ("Spain")
español ("Spanish")

Irlandia ("Ireland")
irlandés ("Irish")

Mexico ("Mexico")
mexicano ("Mexican")

Bolivia ("Bolivia")
boliviano ("Bolivian")

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Bootcamp Lesson Is How to Talk about Ethnicity and Nationality.

Soy costarricense. **"I'm Costa Rican."**

In this lesson, we heard the following phrases: *¡Hola! Soy Michelle. Soy costarricense.* ("Hello. I'm Michelle. I'm Costa Rican.") and *¡Hola! Yo soy Carlos. Soy estadounidense.* ("Hello. I'm Carlos. I'm American.")

Expressing Ethnicities

To express nationality and ethnicity in Spanish, we use the verb *ser* ("to be"). Remember, *ser* means "to be," and *ser* is the verb we use when we're describing identity.

When using *ser* in a sentence with a subject, we have to conjugate it; that is to say, we use a distinct form for every grammatical person and number.

As an example, the first person singular form of *ser* is *soy*.

For Example:

1. *Soy JP, soy estadounidense.*

In each case, *soy* corresponds to the English "I am."

If you want to address someone directly, use the second person singular form of *ser*, which is *eres*.

For Example:

1. *¿Eres mexicano?*
"Are you Mexican?"

To speak about another person, use the third person singular of *ser*, which is *es*.

For Example:

1. *No es mexicano, es guatemalteco.*
"He's not Mexican, he's Guatemalan."

The plural forms of *ser* include the first person plural *somos*...

For Example:

1. *No somos argentinos.*
"We're not Argentinians."

the second person plural *son*...and

For Example:

1. *¿No son españoles?*
"You're not Spaniards?"

the third person plural, which is also *son*.

For Example:

1. *Ellos son guatemaltecos también.*
"They are Guatemalan as well."

In Spain, and only in Spain, they use a distinct second person plural form when talking in a familiar context. The corresponding *ser* form is *sois*.

For Example:

1. *Sois cubanos.*
"You all are Cubans."

Latin American Spanish speakers do not use that special Spanish familiar form; instead, they stick with *son*.

For Example:

1. *Son cubanos.*
"You all are Cubans."

Good to know!

In English when we talk about nationalities, we often use a noun; we hear that it's a noun because we use an article.

For Example:

1. "I am an American; she is a Canadian."

In Spanish, however, we usually describe nationalities and ethnicities with adjectives, so there's no need for an article like "a" or "an."

For Example:

1. *Soy americano, ella es canadiense.*

Also, please note that in Spanish, we capitalize the names of countries, but we do not capitalize the adjectives derived from the names of those countries.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Popular is the Spanish Language?

Spanish is the fourth most-spoken language in the world. It's the official language of twenty countries and it is the second most-spoken language in the United States. The Spanish-speaking population of the United States actually makes it the country with the fourth largest Spanish-speaking population in the world.