

LESSON NOTES

Newbie #5

Where is he from?

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DIALOGUE - INFORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. SUSANA : ¿De dónde es él?
2. DAVID : Él es de Inglaterra.
3. SUSANA : ¿De dónde es ella?
4. DAVID : Ella es de los Estados Unidos.
5. SUSANA : Ella está contenta, ¿no?

ENGLISH

1. SUSANA : Where is he from?
2. DAVID : He's from England.
3. SUSANA : Where is she from?
4. DAVID : She's from the United States.
5. SUSANA : She's happy, isn't she?

DIALOGUE - FORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. SUSANA : ¿De dónde es él?
2. DAVID : Él es de Inglaterra.
3. SUSANA : ¿De dónde es ella?
4. DAVID : Ella es de los Estados Unidos.
5. SUSANA : Ella está contenta, ¿no?

ENGLISH

1. SUSANA : Where is he from?
2. DAVID : He's from England.
3. SUSANA : Where is she from?
4. DAVID : She's from the United States.
5. SUSANA : She's happy, isn't she?

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
de dónde	from where	interrogative adverbial phrase	
él	he	personal pronoun	masculine
ella	she	personal pronoun	feminine
Inglaterra	England	noun	
Estados Unidos	United States	noun	
contento, -a	happy	adjective	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

¿De dónde es usted? "Where are you from?"	Él es Martín. "He is Martin."
Ella es guapa. "She is pretty."	Soy de Inglaterra. "I'm from England."
Ella es de los Estados Unidos. "She is from the United States."	Nosotros estamos contentos. "We are happy."

GRAMMAR

Ser vs. Estar

We have said that "ser" tends to refer to permanent states of being, and "estar" to *temporary conditions* of being. Now, let's look at how the meaning of a sentence changes, when only the verbs "ser" and "estar" are interchanged:

"Tomás está aburrido." (Thomas *looks* bored.)

"Tomás es aburrido." (Thomas *is* boring.)

Notice how the verb "está" takes on the temporary condition of being bored; while the "es" refers to him being boring. The same occurs in the following:

"El pollo está rico." (The chicken *tastes* delicious.)

"El pollo es rico." (Chicken *is* delicious.)

Again, you can see how "estar" refers to 'this time'. The chicken "está" delicious means that this time it came out good. The chicken "es" delicious means that it is delicious in general.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The countries of Chile, Peru and Bolivia have long disputed the border that lies in northern Chile, coastal Bolivia and southern Peru. In a dispute over taxes on Chilean nitrate companies, Bolivia declared war on Chile, bringing with them their ally, Peru. In the War of the Pacific (1879-1883), Chile seized what was then coastal Bolivia. Since then, these national crossroads have never been without dispute. Just recently, Chile declared their rights to fishing waters off the coast of southern Peru, kindling the animosity. In the town of Arica, in northern Chile, just a few miles from the Peruvian border, a giant statue of Christ faces south, which in the opinion of many Peruvians was a backhanded gesture of disrespect, as they have made Christ turn his back on Peru.