

LESSON NOTES

Newbie #6

Why are you here?

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#6

DIALOGUE - INFORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. DIEGO : ¿Por qué estás en Ecuador?
2. ANN : Yo estoy en Ecuador para trabajar.
3. DIEGO : ¿Qué tipo de trabajo tienes?
4. ANN : Yo soy bióloga.
5. DIEGO : ¡Ah, eres científica!

ENGLISH

1. DIEGO : Why are you here?
2. ANN : I'm in Ecuador to work.
3. DIEGO : What kind of job do you have?
4. ANN : I'm a biologist.
5. DIEGO : Ah, you're a scientist!

DIALOGUE - FORMAL SPANISH

MAIN

1. DIEGO : ¿Por qué está usted en Ecuador?
2. ANN : Yo estoy en Ecuador para trabajar.
3. DIEGO : ¿Qué tipo de trabajo tiene usted?
4. ANN : Yo soy bióloga.
5. DIEGO : ¡Ah, usted es científica!

ENGLISH

1. DIEGO : Why are you here, Ma'am?
2. ANN : I am in Ecuador to work.
3. DIEGO : What kind of job do you have, Ma'am?
4. ANN : I am a biologist.
5. DIEGO : Ah, you Ma'am are a scientist!

VOCABULARY

| Spanish | English | Class | Gender |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| por qué | why | interrogative pronoun | |
| para | for, in order to | preposition | |
| trabajar | to work | verb | |
| tipo | kind, type | noun | masculine |
| tener | to have | verb | |
| científico, -a | scientist | noun | feminine |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| ¿Por qué no trabajas? "Why don't you work?" | Este programa es para hacer diseño. "This program is for doing design." |
| A mí no me gusta trabajar en este restaurante. "I do not like to work in this restaurant." | ¿Qué tipo de música le gusta escuchar? "What type of music do you like to listen to?" |
| Ellos tienen demasiada basura en su jardín. "They have too much garbage in their garden." | Tengo dos hermanos y una hermana. "I have two brothers and one sister." |
| Ella tiene amigas. "She has girlfriends." | Ella es científica. "She is a scientist." |

GRAMMAR

"ser" vs. "estar"

In Newbie Lesson 5, we saw how a sentence can take either "ser" or "estar" and still be complete and correct, except that its meaning can change, sometimes not in our favor. Today, let's focus in a little closer on how to distinguish the usages of these two verbs from one another. The verb "ser" expresses an intrinsic, natural or permanent quality or condition.

"The verb "estar" expresses an impermanent quality or characteristic or the result of an action or process.

1) "Angela *está* nerviosa." (Angela is nervous.)

Notice how "nerviosa" (nervous) here is an **impermanent quality**. This means that Angela is not usually nervous, but something has caused this temporary feeling to come over her.

2) "Angela *es* nerviosa." (Angela is high-strung.)

Here, "nerviosa" (high-strung) is a **permanent quality**. Angela has a problem with her nerves and this nervous behavior is something that she deals with on a daily basis.

1) "Miguel *está* débil." (Miguel is weak.)

In this case, "débil" (weak) is an **impermanent quality**, which is to say that Miguel's health is usually better than it is now. He is usually strong, but he may be under the weather or injured.

2) "Miguel *es* débil." (Miguel is a weakling.)

Now, "débil" (weakling) expresses a **permanent quality**. Miguel has a small physique and has little muscle mass. He has never been strong and is unlikely to every be strong.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

During the 1820's, the people inhabiting the Rio de la Plata and surrounding areas (what is now Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay) embarked on an endeavor to forcefully define the boundaries of what was then the United Provinces of the Rio de la Plata (Argentina) and the Brazilian Empire in the Argentina-Brazil War. The dispute was inherited from the colonizing countries of Spain and Portugal. The conflict precipitated the raising of arms, in which the United Provinces of the Rio de la Plata faced off against the Brazilian Empire until the Treaty of Montevideo was signed, granting Uruguay its independence.