

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 Are You Getting

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. DIEGO: ¿Estás bien?
2. PATRICIA: No, estoy muy cansada.
3. DIEGO: Ok, ¿quieres ir a casa?
4. PATRICIA: Sí, vámonos.

ENGLISH

1. DIEGO: Are you all right?
2. PATRICIA: No, I'm very tired.
3. DIEGO: Do you want to go home?
4. PATRICIA: Yes, let's go.

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class
estar	to be	verb
cansado	tired	adjective
ir a casa	to go home	phrase
Vámonos.	Let's leave.	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Están bien. "They are fine."	Cuando estoy cansado, duermo como un tronco. "When I'm tired, I sleep like a log."
Después del trabajo suelo ir a casa. "After work, I usually go home."	Vámonos que ya es tarde. "Let's leave; it's getting late."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

estar ("to be")

We use this verb to describe temporary states and conditions.

cansado ("tired")

This adjective is related to the verb ***cansar*** ("to tire"). The feminine form is ***cansada***.

ir a casa ("to go home")

This is an idiomatic phrase. Literally, the noun ***la casa*** means "house."

Vámonos. ("Let's get out of here.")

This is the first person plural imperative of ***irse*** ("to leave," "to take off").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Estar* to Describe Temporary States or Conditions.

No, estoy muy cansada.

"No, I'm very tired."

In Absolute Beginner Series Season 1, Lesson 1, we learned that we often use the verb *estar* to express location.

In a more general sense, *estar* is the verb we use to express temporary states or conditions. These temporary states and conditions do not change the identity of the person they are describing; instead, they express an inherently temporary quality.

For Example:

1. *Estoy muy cansada.*
"I'm very tired."
Being tired is not a feature of identity. In fact, it is only a temporary quality that we can change (e.g., after getting some rest, getting a good night's sleep, drinking a cup of coffee, etc.).
2. *Está en su casa.*
"She's at home."
Being at home and talking about locations of people in general are inherently temporary states, since we can change them easily by going somewhere else. This sentence does not describe the identity of a person; rather, it describes only the temporary and changeable status of, in this case, the person's location.
3. *Están hablando.*
"They are speaking."
In this sentence, speaking is a temporary state or condition; it is not a permanent part of their identity (they have to sleep sometime!).

The Verb *Estar* in the Present Tense

The verb *estar* has some irregularities in the present tense.

<i>estar</i>	"English" Equivalent	Spanish Sample Sentence	"English" Sample Sentence
<i>estoy</i>	"I am"	<i>Estoy cansada.</i>	"I am tired."
<i>estás</i>	"you are" (familiar)	<i>Estás cansado.</i>	"You are tired."
<i>está</i>	"he/she/it is"; "you are" (formal)	<i>Ella está cansada.</i>	"She is tired."
<i>estamos</i>	"we are"	<i>Todos estamos cansados.</i>	"We are all tired."

<i>estáis</i>	"you all are" (familiar, Spain)	<i>¿No estáis cansados?</i>	"Aren't you all tired?"
<i>están</i>	"they are"; "you all are"	<i>Todos están cansados.</i>	"They are all tired."

Note: When using *estar* with a predicate adjective, the adjective will agree in gender and number with the noun it modifies.

Remember: The Verb *Ser*

We also translate the verb *ser* as "to be" in English. Unlike *estar*, which we use for temporary states and conditions, we use the verb *ser* for identity, attributes, and characteristics that we see as immutable.

1. *Ellos son canadienses.*
"They are Canadian."
Being Canadian is a nationality; it is part of someone's identity. People do not commonly view it as a temporary state.
2. *Es muy alto tu jefe.*
"Your boss is very tall."
Here, we see "tallness" as an immutable attribute. It is not common to be temporarily tall one day, for example, and short the next.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Remember: The Verb *Ser*

Have you ever had coca tea? Don't think this is a new soft-drink product from the biggest soft-drink company in the world. No, this is a legit, one hundred percent herbal tea made from—you guessed it—coca leaves. This plant is most commonly found in South America, and it forms a significant part of Andean culture. The plant contains many alkaloids including cocaine, a known powerful stimulant. My point is that this leaf relieves pain and

fatigue and suppresses hunger. Additionally, it is legal in many countries in South America and we can purchase it for chewing or in tea form. So do not be surprised or taken aback if, while hiking Machu Picchu in Perú or hiking throughout the Andes, you're offered coca tea or leaves to assist you in your trek.