

Ser y Estar: DOCTOR y PLACE

a mnemonic device

*Thinking of ser as long-term and estar as temporary is a useful starting point, but the real key is meaning. **DOCTOR** and **PLACE** help us see the deeper patterns behind each verb.*

SER — DOCTOR

Use *ser* for identity, description, and long-term ideas.

- **D**escription — tall, short, red, blue *Ella es alta.*
- **O**ccupation — teacher, doctor *Soy maestra.*
- **C**haracteristic — curious, friendly *Soy curiosa.*
- **T**ime — days, dates, hours *Es miércoles.*
- **O**origin — where someone is from *Soy de Arizona.*
- **R**elationship — family, roles *Ella es mi amiga.*

ESTAR — PLACE

Use *estar* for temporary states, feelings, and locations.

- **P**osition — sitting, standing *Estoy sentada.*
- **L**ocation — where someone or something is *Estoy en mi cocina.*
- **A**ction — *estar* + *gerundio* *Estoy cocinando.*
- **C**ondition — tired, sick, ready *Estoy cansada.*
- **E**motion — happy, sad, confused *Estoy contenta.*

Ser is who you are. Estar is how or where you are right now.