

Spanish

Week 3 – Alex Bailey

¡Hola a todos! I hope you have had a great start to your Spring semester thus far. My name is Alex Bailey, this year's Spanish Master Tutor. I am currently a Junior studying Finance and Chinese and I have been working at the tutoring center for nearly two years now. I have a passion for language learning and have studied Spanish academically for 5 years and speak at home. This semester, we will be mainly following the schedule of Elementary Spanish Part 2 sections at Baylor. This week we will be covering topics such as "Estar vs Ser" and "Preterite conjugations" in more detail than was offered in Elementary Spanish 1. I would also suggest looking over the resources on the website published last semester to go over more specific concepts you may feel need to be polished. Remember, we also provide free online tutoring for Spanish courses, so make sure to schedule appointments as needed at https://www.baylor.edu/support_programs/index.php?id=40917

Key Words:

- Estar vs. Ser
- Verb Phrase Meaning Changes
- Preterite Tense
- -CAR, -GAR, -ZAR Verb Endings

Estar vs. Ser and Verb Phrase Meaning Changes

As we reviewed last semester, the main difference in the usage of the verbs "ser" and "estar", which both mean "to be", is whether the context of the sentence is one of permanence or temporariness, respectively. However, in many cases, the same sentence can use either "ser" or "estar", not one exclusively, both of which will change the meaning of the sentence. Refer to the example below:

ser aburrido – to be boring vs. **estar** aburrido – to be bored

As you can see in the example above, "to be boring" is a characteristic of a person that suggests something permanent, rather than a fleeting element to their personality. In contrast, "to be bored" suggests a temporary state of being that could change within a few moments. Below is a list of some other verb phrase changes similar to the one above that you should know (this list can be found on spanishdict.com):

ser bueno	<i>to be good</i>	estar bueno	<i>to be tasty/attractive</i>
ser listo	<i>to be clever</i>	estar listo	<i>to be ready</i>

ser malo	<i>to be bad</i>	estar malo	<i>to be ill</i>
ser rico	<i>to be rich</i>	estar rico	<i>to be tasty</i>
ser seguro	<i>to be safe</i>	estar seguro	<i>to be certain</i>

The Preterite and CAR, GAR, ZAR verbs

As you already know, the “preterite” past tense is indicative of an action that occurred at a defined time/instance in the past (as opposed to the imperfect which suggests an action occurring in the past with an undefined length of time/instance). While most verbs do not change the stem of the word, rather only the ending -AR , -ER, or -IR, when a verb ends in either CAR, GAR, or ZAR, you must alter the stem of the word preceding the ending when conjugating the “yo” form in the preterite tense.

Refer to the graphic below on how to do so.



This graphic can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mxk3UFjAQY> and I would suggest watching this video for more details.

Practice Time!

Please translate the following English verb phrases using both the “ser” and “estar” forms:

1. to be tiring vs. to be tired
2. to be seriously ill vs. to be a serious person
3. to be conceited vs. to be proud (of something)
4. to look old vs. to be old
5. to be sharp/aware vs. to be alive

Please conjugate each CAR, GAR, ZAR verb in the Preterite "yo" form:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Apagar | 6. Comenzar |
| 2. Cargar | 7. Tocar |
| 3. Educar | 8. Sacar |
| 4. Pagar | 9. Organizar |
| 5. Empezar | 10. Almozar |

Answers

1. ser cansado vs. estar cansado
2. estar grave vs. ser grave
3. ser orgulloso vs. estar orgulloso
4. estar viejo vs. ser viejo
5. ser vivo vs. estar vivo

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Apagué | 6. Comencé |
| 2. Cargué | 7. Toqué |
| 3. Eduqué | 8. Saqué |
| 4. Pagué | 9. Organicé |
| 5. Empecé | 10. Almocé |

When you're in Spanish class and you don't have a single clue about what is going on



Study Tip: To best prepare for the new semester, it is imperative to have a strong understanding of what was taught last semester. I would highly suggest going over your resources from last semester, including notes, past graded work that you may have, and also our free Spanish resources already published on our website! 😊