

# Subject Pronouns and the verb “SER”

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# What is a subject pronoun?

- ▶ A pronoun replaces a noun:
  - ▶ Where is **Jack**? **He** is over there.
  - ▶ *He* replaces *Jack* to avoid repeating the name over and over.
- ▶ *He* is considered a subject pronoun, because *Jack* could be the subject of a verb: “Jack runs up the hill.”
- ▶ We have many subject pronouns, such as: I, he, she, it, we, you, you all

# What is an infinitive verb?

- ▶ When we talk about verbs, the *infinitive* is the most basic form of a verb and it does not express any subject or tense (past or present); we put “to” in front of verbs in the infinitive:
  - ▶ to run, to climb, to eat, to sing
- ▶ Once we decide to express a subject and tense, we are *conjugating* the verb:
  - ▶ I run, you climb, we eat, he sings
  - ▶ In English, many times the verb form itself does not change, but in Spanish, we will see that there are many changes to the verb ending

Verb Chart expressing number (singular and plural) and person (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>); subject pronouns are highlighted

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I eat	We eat
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	You eat	You (plural) eat
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	He, she, it eats	They eat

# Spanish subject pronouns

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	<b>Yo</b> I	<b>Nosotros/as</b> We
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	<b>Tú</b> You (familiar)	<b>Vosotros/as</b> You (plural - Spain only)
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	<b>Él, ella</b> (He, she) <b>Usted</b> You (formal)	<b>Ellos/as</b> They <b>Ustedes</b> You all

# A few notes on Spanish pronouns

- ▶ In Spanish, we have two “you” forms: familiar (*tú*) and formal (*usted*)
  - ▶ If we are speaking with a close friend or family member, we use *tú*
  - ▶ When speaking with someone of high rank, someone of importance or someone who is not your direct peer, we use *usted* (teacher, grandparents in some families, someone in a business transaction, or even royalty)
- ▶ *Nosotros*, *Vosotros*, and *Ellos* are used when speaking only about men, or a mixture of men and women
- ▶ *Nosotras*, *Vosotras*, and *Ellas* are used when only speaking about women
- ▶ *Vosotros* is only used in Spain (where it is quite common)
- ▶ We will only use “ustedes” for “you (plural)” in this class; the “vosotros” form will never appear on tests, but we will still mention it in class for students’ general knowledge

# The verb *Ser*

- ▶ *SER* is the infinitive form of the verb “to be”
- ▶ This is an irregular verb and we need to memorize its conjugations (the way the verb changes when we add a subject)

	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Yo</b> <b>soy</b> (I am)	<b>Nosotros/as</b> <b>somos</b> We are
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Tú</b> <b>eres</b> (You are, familiar)	<b>Vosotros/as</b> <b>sois</b> (You, plural - Spain only)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Él, ella</b> <b>es</b> (He/she is) <b>Usted</b> <b>es</b> (You are, formal)	<b>Ellos/as</b> <b>son</b> They are <b>Ustedes</b> <b>son</b> You all are

## Other subjects

- ▶ We won't always see just subject pronouns with the verbs
- ▶ What if these are our subjects? What form of 'ser' would we use?

Martha \_\_\_\_\_

Martha y John \_\_\_\_\_ (y = and)

Martha y yo \_\_\_\_\_

Martha es

Martha y John son

Martha y yo somos