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Welcome

A note to students

Welcome to *English Grammar: Step by Step 1*, a book that will teach you everything you need to understand the basics of English grammar.

The assumption behind this book is that anyone can learn English grammar, regardless of their level of education. To ensure that this occurs, grammar concepts are presented in a step-by-step fashion, starting at the most basic level. Each new concept is followed by exercises that give you the opportunity to practice what you've learned and additional exercises at the end of each chapter provide even more practice. All of the answers to the exercises are in an appendix, so you can check your work as you go. A dictionary of all the words used in this book is included in the back of the book, making it easy to look up words you don't know how to spell. The dictionary also includes pronunciation.

This book also is intended for people who can speak English, but have no formal training writing it. Toward that end, it covers basic concepts like English capitalization and punctuation, topics that often are a mystery to people who never studied English in school. When you finish this book, you can move on to *English Grammar: Step by Step 2* where you'll learn about present tense verbs and prepositions.

Keep in mind that the focus of this book is exclusively on grammar. Learning English requires many other skills in addition to grammar, such as pronunciation, listening comprehension, vocabulary development, and so on. At the same time, if you who want to advance in English you'll need a solid foundation in basic grammar, which is precisely what this book provides.

A note to teachers

*English Grammar: Step by Step 1* was written to help Spanish-speaking students learn grammar in a simple, straightforward manner. It assumes no prior knowledge of either English or Spanish grammar and is appropriate for students with only minimal formal education. It also is intended for students who have some knowledge of spoken English, but have minimal experience with the written word. Teachers can use this book as a classroom text in classes with only Spanish-speakers or as a supplement for Spanish-speaking students in mixed-language classes. It also can be made available to students in distance learning programs and in school bookstores that stock ESL materials.

When your students finish this book, they can move on to *English Grammar: Step by Step 2*, a book that uses precisely the same format as this book to teach students about present tense verbs and prepositions.

Because the book is available in English and Spanish, teachers who don't speak Spanish can read the English version to learn some basic differences between English and Spanish grammar, then make the Spanish version of the book available to their students. The English version of this book can also be used by intermediate-level ESL students who want to review fundamental English grammar.
Acknowledgements

Many people gave me the support and encouragement I needed to write this book. My friend and colleague Maria Kleczewska read early drafts and offered invaluable comments based on her teaching experience. This book is much improved from its initial incarnation thanks to her input. My friend Lisa Swagerty took the time to listen to my concerns. Barb Hooper gave me much-needed marketing advice. Gabriela Urricariet was a skilled and thorough editor and translator. Julie Reis helped me find errors others had missed. Amy Zhang created the fanciful illustrations. Book designer Stuart Silberman transformed this manuscript from a sea of gray into a document that's both easy to use and inviting to read. Renée Cook deserves credit for transforming Stuart's design into a polished document. Beth Zonderman created a book cover that made a seemingly dull subject come alive. Finally, I want to thank my friend Mary Bender who opened my eyes to the beauty of Latin American textiles in general and to molas in particular. A mola from her collection is pictured on the cover of this book.

I also want to thank the many Sequoia Adult School staff members—including Barbara Hooper, Lionel De Maine, Pat Cocconi, Ana Escobar, Soledad Rios, Maria Ibarra, and Juan Ramirez—who have supported my efforts and helped make my books available to Sequoia Adult School students.

My amazing husband Bruce Hodge helped with countless tasks, from design assistance to 24/7 technical support while my daughters Chelsea and Caroline offered valuable editorial input. Finally, I want to thank the hundreds of students who inspired me with their enthusiasm for learning and heartfelt dedication to mastering the intricacies of English grammar. Without them, this book never would have been written.
Learning a language is like building a building. You start at the bottom and work your way up. In this chapter you’ll be introduced to the basic building blocks of language: nouns, pronouns, and verbs. You’ll also learn how to use the verb **to be** (*ser* and *estar*), the most common verb in the English language. Finally, you’ll use what you have learned to write simple sentences in English.

At the end of this chapter you will be able to
- identify nouns.
- distinguish between singular and plural nouns.
- recite the subject pronouns in English.
- use the verb **to be** (*ser* and *estar*).
- write a sentence in English that tells where you are from.
1.1 Nouns: The Building Blocks of Language

When you were a baby, the first words you said were most likely the names of people and objects around you. These words, such as mamá and pelota, are called nouns. A noun is a person, place, animal, or thing. For example,

- maestra is a noun that is a person.
- parque is a noun that is a place.
- elefante is a noun that is an animal.
- mesa is a noun that is a thing.

In Spanish, nouns are distinguished by gender, either masculine or feminine. For example, la casa is a feminine noun; el parque is a masculine noun. In English, the only nouns that are feminine or masculine refer to certain people and animals. For example, father (padre) is a masculine noun and mother (madre) is a feminine noun. Only a few English nouns are masculine or feminine. This is good news if you are learning English because it means that you rarely need to think about whether a noun is masculine or feminine!

Using the

The most common word in the English language is the. In Spanish, there are four words for the: el, la, los, and las. In English, it’s easy: you always use the.

A noun can either be singular or plural. A singular noun refers to one person, place, animal, or thing. A plural noun refers to more than one. The following table gives you examples of how to use the with singular nouns. Study these words. You will use them in the exercise on the next page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary: Singular nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the student (el estudiante, la estudiante)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the girl (la niña)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the sister (la hermana)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

the house (la casa) the school (la escuela) the store (la tienda) the car (el carro) the table (la mesa) the chair (la silla) the book (el libro)
### 1.1.a Directions:
Read the sentence in Column 1. In Column 2, write each noun in the sentence. The first question is done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List each noun in the sentence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Laura tiene un perro y dos gatos.  
1a. Laura  
1b. perro  
1c. gatos

2. Me gusta comer arroz y frijoles.  
2a.  
2b.

3. Veo una paloma en el jardín.  
3a.  
3b.

4. Los estudiantes están en el aula.  
4a.  
4b.

5. La casa es grande.  
5a.

6. Miguel y Ernesto son amigos.  
6a.  
6b.  
6c.

7. El lápiz está en la mesa.  
7a.  
7b.

8a.  
8b.

### 1.1.b Directions:
Translate these phrases. Use the word list on the previous page. The first two are done for you.

1. la silla  
   the chair

2. la tienda  
   the store

3. el libro

4. la niña

5. la mesa

6. la maestra

7. la casa

8. la estudiante

9. la escuela

10. el carro

11. el niño

12. el maestro
As you learned in the previous section, nouns can be singular or plural. A *singular noun* refers to one person, place, animal, or thing. A *plural noun* refers to more than one person, place, animal, or thing. In both Spanish and English, you usually make a noun plural by adding *s*.

**Plant** *(planta)* is a singular noun.

**Plants** *(plantas)* is a plural noun.

**Book** *(libro)* is a singular noun.

**Books** *(libros)* is a plural noun.

Study the singular and plural nouns in the following table. Notice that each plural noun ends with *s*. Notice also that in English you use the same word, *the*, whether the noun that follows is singular or plural.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular nouns</th>
<th>Plural nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the house <em>(la casa)</em></td>
<td>the houses <em>(las casas)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the school <em>(la escuela)</em></td>
<td>the schools <em>(las escuelas)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the store <em>(la tienda)</em></td>
<td>the stores <em>(las tiendas)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the car <em>(el carro)</em></td>
<td>the cars <em>(los carros)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the table <em>(la mesa)</em></td>
<td>the tables <em>(las mesas)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the chair <em>(la silla)</em></td>
<td>the chairs <em>(las sillas)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the book <em>(el libro)</em></td>
<td>the books <em>(los libros)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the student <em>(el estudiante, la estudiante)</em></td>
<td>the students <em>(los estudiantes, las estudiantes)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the teacher <em>(el maestro, la maestra)</em></td>
<td>the teachers <em>(los maestros, las maestras)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In English you sometimes make nouns plural by adding *es* or *ies*, instead of *s*. You’ll learn more about these plural nouns later in this book.
1.2.a Directions: Write S after the noun if it is singular and P after the noun if it is plural. The first two are done for you.
1. the student S
2. the students P
3. the nurse
4. the nurses
5. the teachers
6. the teacher
7. the dog (perro)
8. the dogs
9. the houses
10. the house
11. the book
12. the books
13. the chairs
14. the chair
15. the table
16. the tables
17. the cat (gato)
18. the cats
19. the sister
20. the sisters
21. the schools
22. the school

1.2.b Directions: Make each noun plural. The first one is done for you.
1. the nurse
2. the teacher
3. the student
4. the store
5. the dog
6. the chair
7. the book
8. the house
9. the car
10. the table
11. the school
12. the brother

1.2.c Directions: Translate each phrase into English. The first two are done for you.
1. la mesa the table
2. las mesas the tables
3. el perro
4. los hermanos
5. los gatos
6. las sillas
7. la maestra
8. los libros
9. la silla
10. las maestras
11. la madre
12. las casas
13. los carros
14. el estudiante
15. la estudiante
16. las estudiantes
17. los estudiantes
18. las hermanas
1.3 Verbs and Subjects

To learn a new language, you need to think about how your native language functions; then apply that information to the language you’re learning. In this section, you’ll learn how to identify verbs and subjects in Spanish sentences. In the next section, you’ll learn how to use verbs and subjects in English.

¡Cuidado! Even though you’re eager to learn about English grammar (as opposed to Spanish grammar), don’t skip this section. If you do, you’ll be confused later on.

A verb is a word that shows action. For example, bailar, hablar, and nadar are all verbs. But the most common verbs in Spanish, ser and estar, don’t show any action at all. They simply tell the current state of things.

The subject of a sentence is usually the first noun in the sentence. The subject tells who or what the sentence is about. The verb usually comes immediately after the subject. Consider this sentence:

▶ Gabriela es maestra.

The verb is es. To identify the subject, look for the first noun in the sentence. As you can see, it’s Gabriela. Notice that Gabriela comes immediately before the verb, es.

Now, consider this sentence:

▶ Las casas son grandes.

The verb is son. The first noun in the sentence, casas, is the subject. Here again, the subject comes immediately before the verb.

There are many sentences where the first noun in the sentence is not the subject of the sentence and where the noun does not come immediately before the verb, but you won’t be studying those types of sentences until you’ve mastered more grammar.

Here are more examples of complete sentences. In each example, the subject is underlined and the verb is in bold.

▶ Carlos es médico.

▶ Los edificios son muy grandes.

▶ Mis hermanas están en Puebla.

▶ Ángel está muy guapo.
1.3.a Directions: The subject of each sentence is underlined. Write S if the subject is singular and P if the subject is plural. The first two are done for you.

1. El estudiante es de Texas. S
2. Los estudiantes ahora están en Nueva York. P
3. Isabel y yo somos amigas. ___
4. La maestra está en el aula. ___
5. Las sillas son nuevas. ___
6. El vecindario es peligroso. ___
7. El carro siempre está roto. ___
8. Los estudiantes todavía están cansados. ___
9. Yo soy de Los Ángeles. ___
10. Nosotros somos estudiantes nuevos. ___
11. Jennifer López es actriz. ___
12. Las montañas son muy altas. ___
13. Las mujeres están en el teatro. ___
14. Enrique y yo somos de Brasil. ___
15. La tienda está cerrada. ___
16. Yo estoy enfermo. ___

1.3.b Directions: Put one line under the subject. Put two lines under the verb, ser or estar. The first two are done for you.

1. El estudiante es de Texas. ___
2. Ellos están en Nueva York. ___
3. Nosotras somos amigas. ___
4. La maestra está en el aula. ___
5. Las sillas son nuevas. ___
6. El vecindario es peligroso. ___
7. El carro está roto. ___
8. Los estudiantes están cansados. ___
9. Yo soy de Los Ángeles. ___
10. Alex y yo somos estudiantes nuevos. ___
11. Jennifer López es actriz. ___
12. Las montañas son muy altas. ___
13. Las mujeres están en el teatro. ___
14. Nosotros somos de Brasil. ___
15. La tienda está cerrada. ___
16. Yo estoy enfermo. ___
17. La tienda está cerrada.
You have learned that the subject of a sentence is the word or words that tell who or what the sentence is about. Read this sentence:

▶ Jorge es de Nicaragua.
The subject of the sentence is Jorge.

A pronoun is a word that you can use to replace a noun. A personal pronoun is a pronoun that takes the place of a noun that is the subject. For example, instead of saying

▶ Jorge es de Nicaragua.
you can replace Jorge with the pronoun él. The new sentence is

▶ Él es de Nicaragua.

Similarly, instead of saying

▶ Los niños están en el parque.
you might say

▶ Ellos están en el parque.

The following are subject pronouns in English and Spanish.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>Tú es de Perú.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>Usted es de Perú.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>Ustedes son de Perú.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The pronoun it cannot be easily translated into Spanish. You’ll learn about it in the next chapter.

**English vs. Spanish:** In English, the pronoun you is used for tú, usted and ustedes. That means that you’ll use the same pronoun whether you’re talking to a child or the President of the United States! You’ll also use you when you are talking to one person and when you are talking to a group of people. Consider these examples:

**English vs. Spanish:** In English the pronoun they means both ellos and ellas. In other words, they is used to refer to a group of males, a group of females, or a group of males and females that you’re not part of. Similarly, the pronoun we means both nosotros and nosotras, so it can be used to refer to you and one or more males or females.
1.4.a Directions: Translate these subject pronouns from English to Spanish. The first one is done for you.

1. they  ellos  ellas  4. we  __________  __________
2. he  __________  5. you  __________  __________  __________
3. I  __________  6. she  __________

1.4.b Directions: Use the clue to fill in the correct English pronoun. The first one is done for you.

1. Usas este pronombre personal para hablar de un hombre.  he
2. Usas este pronombre personal para hablar de una mujer.
3. Usas este pronombre personal para hablar de ti mismo.
4. Usas este pronombre personal para hablar de un grupo de hombres, un grupo de mujeres o un grupo de hombres y mujeres del cual no eres parte.
5. Usas este pronombre personal para hablar de ti y una o más personas.
6. Usas este pronombre personal para hablar de la persona con la que estás conversando.

1.4.c Directions: Translate these subject pronouns from Spanish to English. The first one is done for you.

1. ella  she
2. tú  __________
3. él  __________
4. ella  __________
5. ellas  __________
6. usted  __________
7. yo  __________
8. ustedes  __________
9. nosotros  __________
10. ellos  __________

1.4.d Directions: Write the subject pronoun—he, she or they—that you can substitute for each noun. The first two are done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Pronoun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Emma</td>
<td>she</td>
<td>9. the sister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mario</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>10. the sisters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Nina and Marco</td>
<td></td>
<td>11. the brother</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fred, Tom, and Dan</td>
<td></td>
<td>12. the brothers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. the girl</td>
<td></td>
<td>13. the students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. the girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>14. Anna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. the boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>15. Eduardo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Lucas</td>
<td></td>
<td>16. Sharon and Frank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.5 Introducing the Verb *To Be*

The most common verbs in Spanish are *ser* and *estar*. In English when you want to use a verb that means either *ser* or *estar* you use the verb *to be*. What’s confusing is that you never say, *I be, you be, or he be*. Instead, you say *I am, you are, he is* and so on. The remainder of this chapter focuses on this important verb. To begin, study this table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjugating the verb <em>to be</em>: Part 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice the following:

- The English phrase that means *I am* has two translations: *yo soy* and *yo estoy*.
- When using the verb *to be*, you always use *am* after the pronoun *I*.

Read this conversation:

*¿De dónde eres?***

**Yo soy de México. Soy de México.**

Here are some important things to notice about this conversation:

- Your response must include the subject pronoun, *I*. This is different from Spanish where the subject pronoun, *yo*, is optional. This sentence is correct:

  I am from Peru.

  This sentence is not correct:

  *Am from Peru.*

- The English word for *de* is *from*.
- Specific geographic locations are capitalized. Thus *Mexico* always starts with a capital *M*.
- All statements in English must begin with a capital letter and end with a period.

Punctuation is very important in English. In fact, if you don’t use correct punctuation, people may think you’re not very well-educated, even if you are! Thus, when you write sentences in English, make sure that you begin every sentence with a capital letter and end every statement with a period. You’ll learn more about English punctuation as you continue in this book.
1.5.a Directions: Rewrite these sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation. Remember that the names of specific locations must begin with a capital letter. The first one is done for you.

1. He is from San Luis Potosi.
2. Linda is from Zacatecas.
3. Anna is from Nicaragua.
4. Peter is from Ecuador.
5. Jesus is from Cuba.
6. Wendy is from Chihuahua.
7. Dulce is from Guerrero.
8. Francisco is from Santiago.
9. Gabriela is from Hidalgo.
10. Edgar is from the USA.

1.5.b Directions: One of the sentences in each pair is not a correct sentence. Cross out the incorrect sentence. The first one is done for you.

1a. I am from Bolivia.
1b. I from Bolivia.
2a. I from New York.
2b. I am from New York.
3a. My from is Puerto Rico.
3b. I am from Puerto Rico.
4a. I from Guatemala.
4b. I am from Guatemala.
5a. I am from Seattle.
5b. Am from Seattle.
6a. I from Ecuador.
6b. I am from Ecuador.
7a. Am de Mexico.
7b. I am from Mexico.

1.5.c Directions: Translate these sentences. Make sure to begin every sentence with a capital letter; capitalize the names of countries, cities, and states; and end every sentence with a period. When you check your work, make sure that each of your sentences is exactly the same as the sentence in Appendix A in the back of this book. The first one is done for you.

1. Yo soy de San Salvador.
   I am from San Salvador.
2. Soy de San Salvador.
3. Yo soy de Honduras.
4. Yo soy de Chiapas.
5. Soy de Chiapas.
You now know how to tell someone where you’re from, but suppose you want to talk about the place of origin of your sister or your friend? To do that, you need to use the verb to be with he or she or a noun that you use instead of he and she. To begin, study this table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjugating the verb to be: Part 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>he is</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the boy is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the girl is</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice the following:

- Each English phrase has two translations: one that includes a form of the verb ser and one that includes a form of the verb estar.
- When using the verb to be, you always use is after the pronouns he and she and after nouns that refer to one person.

Study the following sentences:

*Él es de Cuba.*

*Ella es de Perú.*

It is not correct to say

*Is from Mexico.*
1.6.a Directions: Complete each sentence using am or is. The first two are done for you.
1. I ______ from Mexico.
2. Lucy ______ from Peru.
3. Lucinda ______ from New York.
4. Robert ______ from Guatemala.
5. My teacher ______ from Morelia.
6. He ______ from Mexico.
7. She ______ from Puerto Rico.
8. I ______ from Toluca.
9. The boy ______ from Escatepec.
10. I ______ from Havana.

1.6.b Directions: Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined words with he or she. The first one is done for you.
1. The boy is from Los Angeles.
   He is from Los Angeles.
2. The girl is from Managua.
3. Ana is from Bogota.
4. My sister is from San Jose.
5. Ramon is from the United States.

1.6.c Directions: One of the sentences in each pair is not a correct sentence. Cross out the incorrect sentence. The first one is done for you.
1a. She is from England.
   1b. She am from England.
2a. I is from New York.
   2b. I am from New York.
3a. Is from Miami.
   3b. Juan is from Miami.
4a. He is from Chicago.
   4b. Is from Chicago.
5a. Am from Santo Domingo.
   5b. I am from Santo Domingo.

1.6.d Directions: Translate these sentences. The first one is done for you. Make sure you start each sentence with a capital letter and end each sentence with a period. When you check your work, make sure that each of your sentences is exactly the same as the sentence in the Answers section in the back of this book.
1. Susan es de El Salvador.
   Susan is from San Salvador.
2. Juan es de Michoacán.
3. Mi hermano es de Leon.
4. Él es de Guadalajara.
5. Yo soy de Oaxaca.
More About the Verb *To Be*

In the last section, you learned how to use the verb *to be* with the pronouns *I, he* and *she*. But what form of this verb do you use with all the other pronouns? Study this table to find out.

| Conjugating the verb *to be*: Part 3 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| **you are**                 | tú eres, tú está, usted es, usted está, ustedes son, ustedes están |
| **we are**                  | nosotros somos, nosotros estamos |
| Bob and I are               | Bob y yo somos, Bob y yo estamos |
| **they are**                | ellos son, ellos están, ellas son, ellas están |
| **the boys are**            | los niños son, los niños están |
| **the girls are**           | las niñas son, las niñas están |

After looking at this table, you can see that, when using the verb *to be*, you use the verb *are* after the pronouns *you, we* and *they* or after nouns that refer to you and one other person or to a group of people that doesn’t include you.

**English vs. Spanish:** Remember that the pronoun *you* refers to tú, usted, and ustedes. That means that you’ll say *you are* in each of these situations:

- You are from Sonora. (Eres de Sonora o Tú eres de Sonora.)
- You are from Sonora. (Usted es de Sonora.)
- You are from Sonora. (Ustedes son de Sonora.)

**English vs. Spanish:** In Spanish, you can omit the pronoun that comes before the verb if the meaning of the sentence is clear without the pronoun. For example, in Spanish you can say

- Tú eres de Guatemala. o Eres de Guatemala.
  In English, you must include the pronoun. Thus you must say
- You are from Guatemala.

**Grammar Summary**
When to use the verb *to be* (ser o estar):

- use *am* after the pronoun *I*.
- use *are* after the pronouns *you, we* and *they*.
- use *is* after the pronouns *he* and *she*. 
1.7.a Directions: Write the correct form of the verb to be (am, is or are). The first one is done for you.

1. I ________ from Mexico.  
11. The teachers ________ from San Francisco.
2. You ________ from Mexico.  
12. Leo and Luis ________ from Nicaragua.
3. He ________ from Peru.  
13. My mother ________ from Los Angeles.
4. She ________ from Chicago.  
5. We ________ from Paris.  
15. Marco and Dan ________ from El Salvador.
16. I ________ from the Dominican Republic.
7. They ________ from Texas.  
17. We ________ from Latin America.
8. Luis ________ from Cuba.  
18. My mother ________ from Canada.
19. They ________ from Mexico City.
10. Hector ________ from Cancun.  
20. You ________ from Zapopan.

1.7.b Directions: Translate these sentences. The first one is done for you. When you check your work, make sure that each of your sentences is exactly the same as the sentence in the Appendix in the back of this book.

1. Susan es de San Salvador.  
Susan is from San Salvador.
2. Juan y Nancy son de Chicago.  
3. Mi hermana es de Dallas.  
4. Ellos son de Lima.  
5. Nosotros somos de San Juan.

1.7.c Directions: One of the sentences in each pair is not a correct sentence. Cross out the incorrect sentence. The first one is done for you.

1a. She is from England.  
1b. She are from England.
2a. I are from New York.  
2b. I am from New York.
3a. We is from Miami.  
3b. We are from Miami.
4a. He is from Chicago.  
4b. He are from Chicago.
5a. The boys are from Cuba.  
5b. The boys am from Cuba.
6a. My from is Santiago.  
6b. I am from Santiago.
7a. You is from Tokyo.  
7b. You are from Tokyo.
8a. Lourdes are from the United States.  
8b. Lourdes is from the United States.
1.8 Correct and Incorrect Sentences

This chart shows you the pattern of the sentences you have studied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject (noun or pronoun)</th>
<th>Verb to be (ser o estar)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I (Yo)</td>
<td>am (soy)</td>
<td>from La Paz. (de La Paz.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis</td>
<td>is (es)</td>
<td>from Bogota. (de Bogotá.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We (Nosotros, Nosotras)</td>
<td>are (somos)</td>
<td>from Caracas. (de Caracas.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, each sentence begins with a noun or pronoun, followed by the conjugated form of the verb to be, followed by a location. While this may seem straightforward, it's very easy to make mistakes. Here are some examples of the kinds of mistakes new English speakers often make.

**Sentences with no subject**
In English, it is **not** correct to say

▶ **Is from Morelia.** (Es de Morelia.)

In English, unlike in Spanish, you can't omit the subject. (The only exception is commands, which aren't discussed in this book.) It is correct, for example, to say

▶ **Luis is from Morelia.** (Luis es de Morelia.)

Or you can say

▶ **He is from Morelia.** (Él es de Morelia.)

**Sentences with a redundant subject**
It is **not** correct to say

▶ **Luis he is from Morelia.** (Luis, él es de Morelia.)

This sentence isn't correct because you can't use both a noun and a pronoun for the same subject. Instead, you can either say

▶ **Luis is from Morelia.** (Luis es de Morelia.)

Or you can say

▶ **He is from Morelia.** (Él es de Morelia.)

**Sentences with no verb**
Another common mistake is to omit the verb altogether. For example,

▶ **He from Morelia.** (Él de Morelia.)

Note that, in English, a grammatically correct sentence must include a verb.
1.8.a Directions: Two sentences on each line are correct and one is incorrect. Cross out the incorrect sentence. The first one is done for you.

1a. Susan she is from NY
1b. She is from NY.
1c. Susan is from NY.

2a. Bob is from Boston.
2b. Bob he is from Boston.
2c. He is from Boston.

3a. Lily is from Reno.
3b. She is from Reno.
3c. Lily she is from Reno.

4a. He is from Peru.
4b. Dan he is from Peru.
4c. Dan is from Peru.

5a. The girls they are from LA.
5b. They are from LA.
5c. The girls are from LA.

1.8.b Directions: One sentence on each line is correct and one is incorrect. Cross out the incorrect sentence on each line. The first one is done for you.

1a. Is from NY.
1b. She is from NY.

2a. Jose he is from Ecatepec.
2b. Jose is from Ecatepec.

3a. Are from Ciudad Juárez.
3b. Louisa and Anita are from Ciudad Juárez.

4a. Is from Puerto Rico.
4b. He is from Puerto Rico.

5a. Lisa she is from Camaguey.
5b. Lisa is from Camaguey.

6a. We are from San Luis Potosí.
6b. Are from San Luis Potosí.

7a. I am NY.
7b. I am from NY.

8a. Ernesto is Guadalajara.
8b. Ernesto is from Guadalajara.

9a. Louisa and Anita from LA.
9b. Louisa and Anita are from LA.

10a. He is from Guatemala City.
10b. He is Guatemala City.

11a. Lisa from Culiacan.
11b. Lisa is from Culiacan.

12a. We are from Zapopan.
12b. We from Zapopan.

13a. I from Santo Domingo.
13b. I am from Santo Domingo.

14a. They are Guadalupe.
14b. They are from Guadalupe.

1.8.c Directions: Write the correct form of the verb to be (am, is or are). The first one is done for you.

1. I ______ from Madrid.
5. They ______ from Australia.

2. You ______ from the Dominican Republic.
6. You ______ from Guatemala.

3. Antonio ______ from Bolivia.
7. The students ______ from Puerto Rico.

4. We ______ from Honduras.
8. Esmeralda ______ from the United States.
Chapter 1 Summary

Nouns
▶ A noun (sustantivo) is a person, place, animal or thing.
▶ A noun can be singular or plural. A singular noun (sustantivo singular) refers to one noun (that is, one person, place, animal or thing.). A plural noun (sustantivo plural) refers to more than one noun. In both Spanish and English, you usually make a noun plural by adding an s.

Pronouns
▶ A pronoun (pronombre) is a word that you can use to replace a noun.
▶ In English, a subject pronoun or personal pronoun (pronombre personal) is a pronoun that takes the place of a noun that is the subject of the sentence.
▶ The English subject pronouns with Spanish translations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Pronouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I (yo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he (él)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she (ella)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we (nosotros, nosotras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you (tú, usted, ustedes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they (ellos, ellas)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbs
▶ A verb (verbo) is a word that shows action or state of being.

Subjects
▶ The subject (sujeto) of a sentence is the person or thing that the sentence is about.

The verb to be
▶ The most common English verb is to be (ser and estar). You conjugate the verb to be like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I am</th>
<th>we are</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>he is, she is</td>
<td>you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is</td>
<td>they are</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The article the
▶ The means el, la, los and las.

English sentences
▶ English sentences always include a subject and a verb.
▶ The English sentences you learned in Chapter 1 have this form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjeto (noun or pronoun)</th>
<th>Verb to be (ser o estar)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I (Yo)</td>
<td>am (soy)</td>
<td>from La Paz. (de La Paz.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis</td>
<td>is (eres)</td>
<td>from Bogotá. (de Bogotá.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We (Nosotros, Nosotras)</td>
<td>are (somos)</td>
<td>from Caracas. (de Caracas.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**More Practice!**

### P1.a Directions: Make each noun plural. The first one is done for you.

1. son __________ sons __________
2. daughter __________
3. friend __________
4. boy __________
5. book __________
6. sister __________
7. teacher __________
8. girl __________

### P1.b Directions: Write **S** after the noun if it is singular and **P** after the noun if it is plural. The first two are done for you.

1. dogs **P**
2. cat **S**
3. store ______
4. stores ______
5. chair ______
6. car ______
7. book ______
8. chairs ______
9. books ______
10. girl ______
11. table ______
12. cars ______
13. dog ______
14. cats ______
15. house ______
16. teachers ______

### P1.c Directions: Put one line under the subject of each sentence and two lines under the verb, **ser** or **estar**. The first one is done for you.

1. Mi hermana **está** feliz.
2. Ellos son amigos.
3. El libro es de Benito.
4. Ella está en su casa.
5. Enrique es el capitán.
7. La fiesta es en el parque.
8. Las mujeres son muy bonitas.
9. Él es de los Estados Unidos.
10. Las maestras están en la oficina.

### P1.d Directions: Translate these subject pronouns from Spanish to English. The first one is done for you.

1. ellos ______ they ______
2. yo ______
3. nosotras ______
4. usted ______
5. ella ______
6. él ______
7. ustedes ______
8. ellas ______
9. nosotros ______
10. tú ______
**P1.e Directions:** Write the correct form of the verb to be (am, is or are). The first one is done for you.

1. He ________ from Sinaloa.
2. We ________ from Nayarit.
3. Antonio ________ from Yucatan.
4. Lilia and Jose ________ from Guerrero.
5. They ________ from Campeche.
6. You ________ from Santo Domingo.
7. The brothers ________ from Tabasco.
8. Alejandro ________ from Guanajuato.
10. Sara ________ from Havana.
11. I ________ from Mexico City.
12. The teacher ________ from Zacatecas.
13. The students ________ from the USA.
14. Mr. Lopez ________ from Coahuila.
15. I ________ from Quintana Roo.
16. My boyfriend (novio) ________ from Tamaulipas.
17. My girlfriend (novia) ________ from Hidalgo.
18. You ________ from Aguascalientes.
19. She ________ from Baja California Sur.
20. I ________ from Baja California Norte.

**P1.f Directions:** Change the subject in each sentence from singular to plural. Then change the verb to make a correct sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. The girl is from Mexico.
   - The girls are from Mexico.
2. The boy is from Puerto Rico.
3. The teacher is from Guatemala.
4. The girl is from Bolivia.
5. The doctor is from El Salvador.
6. The student is from San Francisco.

**P1.g Directions:** One sentence on each line is correct and one is incorrect. Crossout the incorrect sentence on each line.

1a. I am Chicago.
1b. I am from Chicago.
2a. Ernesto is from Guadalajara.
2b. Ernesto he is from Guadalajara.
3a. Louisa and Anita from LA.
3b. Louisa and Anita are from LA.
4a. Is from Guatemala City.
4b. He is from Guatemala City.
5a. Lisa is from Haiti.
5b. Lisa she is from Haiti.
6a. We are from Caracas.
6b. We from Caracas.
7a. I from Mexico City.
7b. I am from Mexico City.
8a. Louisa she is from Guadalupe.
8b. Louisa is from Guadalupe.
9a. He from the United States.
9b. He is from the United States.
10a. My brother is from Boston.
10b. My brother he from Boston.
**P1.h Directions:** Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined words with a pronoun (he, she or they). The first one is done for you.

1. The girls are from New York.  
   They are from New York.
2. The girl is from Panama.
3. My brothers are from Brazil.
4. My father is from Argentina.
5. The teachers are from Santiago.
6. Miguel and Carlos are from Las Vegas.
7. Martin is from the United States.
8. My mother is from Mexico City.

**P1.i Directions:** Translate these sentences into English.

1. Ella es de Nicaragua.  
   She is from Nicaragua.
3. Las niñas son de Chicago.
4. La maestra es de Guadalajara.
5. Ellos son de Cancún.
7. Yo soy de San Francisco.
8. Los maestros son de Havana.