Para conversar en clase

Now that you know the names of many different professions, choose five and tell something about each one.

EXAMPLE: **El médico trabaja en el hospital.**

2   One of the most important words in the Spanish language is the verb **ser** (*to be*). **Ser** is a special verb because no other verb is conjugated like it. For this reason, **ser** is called irregular. You must memorize all its forms.

yo	**soy**	*I am*
tú	**eres**	*you are* (familiar)
Ud.	**es**	*you are* (formal)
él ella	**es**	*he is* *she is*
nosotros nosotras	**somos**	*we are*
Uds.	**son**	*you are* (plural)
ellos ellas	**son**	*they are*

Here are some examples with the various forms of the verb **ser.**

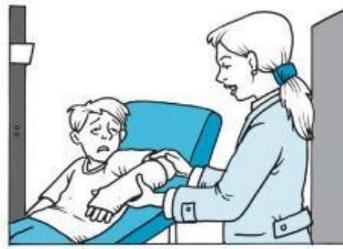**Yo soy alto.**   **Tú eres bonita.**   **Ud. es profesor.**

Él es inteligente.

Ella es doctora.

Nosotras somos
mexicanas.

Uds. son secretarias.

Ellos son famosos.

Ellas son estudiantes.

Actividad C

Here are some sentences in which a form of the verb **ser** is used. Can you match these sentences with the pictures they describe?

Lobo es un perro pequeño.
Los edificios son grandes.
Yo soy presidenta de la clase.
Ellos son inteligentes.
Carlos es alto y flaco.

Mis abuelos son actores de cine.
Ud. es una persona alegre.
Nosotras somos amigas.
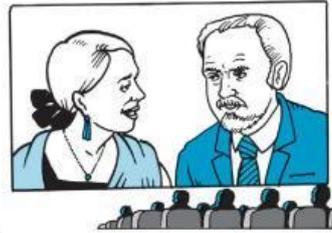La casa es fea y vieja.
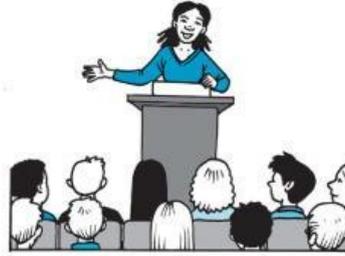Él es un artista famoso.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Trabajo	Descripción
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Cápsula cultural

Rapid Transit Inca-Style

Before the arrival of the Spaniards, the Incas had established the greatest empire in the New World. It stretched from the north of Ecuador to the center of Chile, a distance of almost 5,000 miles. Its population was estimated to be about six million people.

The Incas were remarkable architects and engineers. Without the use of the wheel or powerful animals such as horses, they constructed monumental buildings, bridges, aqueducts, and stone-paved highways.

But perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Inca civilization was the efficiency of its transport system. This vast empire was connected by an 11,000-mile network of highways. Messages and goods were sent from one place in the empire to another with amazing speed. A message could be sent over more than a thousand miles in a matter of days. Fresh fish was brought from the coast to the capital of Cuzco—a distance of approximately 150 miles!—in only two days. Without the use of animals, how was this possible?

The Incas developed a delivery system much like the Pony Express of the Wild West of the United States—but without ponies. Professional runners called **"chasquis"** formed relay teams to deliver messages and goods. Relay stations were set up along the roads at intervals of three miles. The **chasquis**—young Inca athletes— passed the messages from one runner to another at each relay station.

Equally amazing was the system the Incas developed to record their messages. The runners carried **"quipus"**–strings with knots of different colors. Each knot stood for a word or number. The knot could then be translated into messages containing all kinds of information. The strings were attached to rods which were then passed from runner to runner.

Comprensión

1. The vast Inca empire stretched for a distance of almost _____ miles.

2. The Incas were great architects and engineers, constructing such things as _____.

3. The empire was connected by _____.

4. **Chasquis** were professional _____.

5. Strings of knots of different color containing messages were called _____.

Investigación

What other accomplishments did the Incas achieve? What is Machu Picchu? What is its importance?

VOCABULARIO

el (la) abogado(a) *lawyer*
el actor *actor*
la actriz *actress*
el (la) artista *artist*
el bombero *fire fighter*
el/(la) camarero(a) *waiter/waitress*
el/(la) cartero(a) *mail carrier*

el/(la) dentista *dentist*
el/(la) enfermero(a) *nurse*
el (la) médico(a) *physician*
el (la) policía *police officer*
el (la) profesor(a) *teacher*
el (la) secretario(a) *secretary*

alegre *happy*
bueno(a) *good*
ser *to be*
si... *if. . .*
simpático(a) *nice*
solamente *only*