

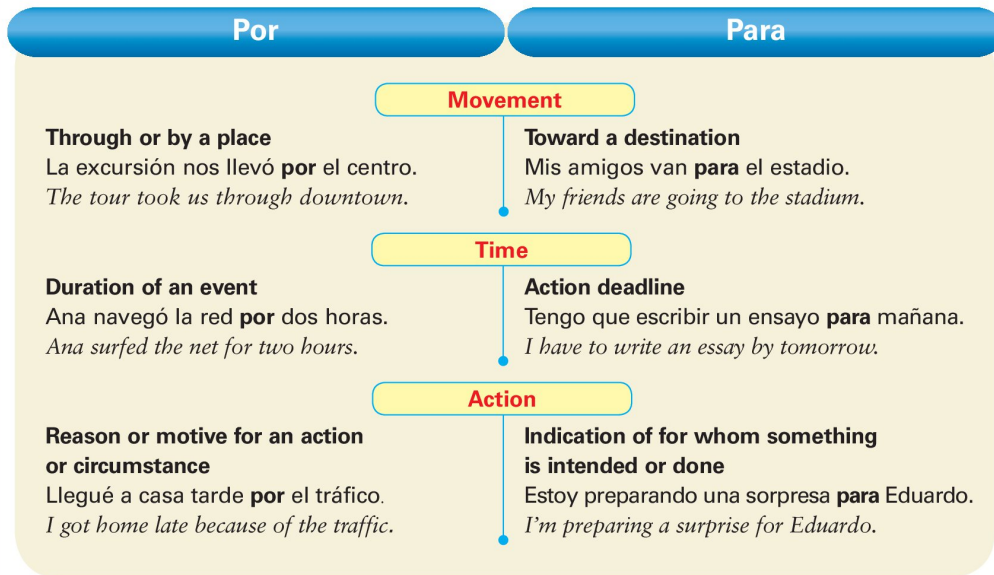
11.2

Por and para


ANTE TODO

Unlike English, Spanish has two words that mean *for*: **por** and **para**. These two prepositions are not interchangeable. Study the following charts to see how they are used.

- **Por** and **para** are most commonly used to describe aspects of movement, time, and action, but in different circumstances.



- Here is a list of the uses of **por** and **para**.

Por is used to indicate...

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Movement: Motion or a general location . . . (around, through, along, by) | Pasamos por el parque y por el río. <i>We passed by the park and along the river.</i> |
| 2. Time: Duration of an action (for, during, in) | Estuve en la Patagonia por un mes. <i>I was in Patagonia for a month.</i> |
| 3. Action: Reason or motive for an action . . (because of, on account of, on behalf of) | Lo hizo por su familia. <i>She did it on behalf of her family.</i> |
| 4. Object of a search (for, in search of) | Vengo por ti a las ocho. <i>I'm coming for you at eight.</i> Manuel fue por su cámara digital. <i>Manuel went in search of his digital camera.</i> |
| 5. Means by which something is done . . . (by, by way of, by means of) | Ellos viajan por la autopista. <i>They travel by (by way of) the highway.</i> |
| 6. Exchange or substitution (for, in exchange for) | Le di dinero por el reproductor de MP3. <i>I gave him money for the MP3 player.</i> |
| 7. Unit of measure (per, by) | José manejaba a 120 kilómetros por hora. <i>José was driving 120 kilometers per hour.</i> |

¡ATENCIÓN!

Por is also used in several idiomatic expressions, including:
por aquí around here
por ejemplo for example
por eso that's why; therefore
por fin finally

AYUDA

Remember that when giving an exact time, **de** is used instead of **por** before **la mañana**, **la tarde**, or **la noche**.
La clase empieza a las nueve **de** la mañana.
...

In addition to **por**, **durante** is also commonly used to mean *for* when referring to time.
Esperé al mecánico **durante** cincuenta minutos.

Para is used to indicate...

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Movement: Destination (toward, in the direction of)</p> <p>2. Time: Deadline or a specific time in the future (by, for)</p> <p>3. Action: Purpose or goal + [infinitive] (in order to)</p> <p>4. Purpose + [noun] (for, used for)</p> <p>5. The recipient of something (for)</p> <p>6. Comparison with others or an opinion. . . (for, considering)</p> <p>7. In the employment of (for)</p> | <p>Salimos para Córdoba el sábado. <i>We are leaving for Córdoba on Saturday.</i></p> <p>Él va a arreglar el carro para el viernes. <i>He will fix the car by Friday.</i></p> <p>Juan estudia para (ser) mecánico. <i>Juan is studying to be a mechanic.</i></p> <p>Es una llanta para el carro. <i>It's a tire for the car.</i></p> <p>Compré una impresora para mi hijo. <i>I bought a printer for my son.</i></p> <p>Para un joven, es demasiado serio. <i>For a young person, he is too serious.</i></p> <p>Para mí, esta lección no es difícil. <i>For me, this lesson isn't difficult.</i></p> <p>Sara trabaja para Telecom Argentina. <i>Sara works for Telecom Argentina.</i></p> |
|---|---|

► In many cases it is grammatically correct to use either **por** or **para** in a sentence. The meaning of the sentence is different, however, depending on which preposition is used.

Caminé **por** el parque.
I walked through the park.

Caminé **para** el parque.
I walked to (toward) the park.

Trabajó **por** su padre.
He worked for (in place of) his father.

Trabajó **para** su padre.
He worked for his father's company).

¡INTÉNTALO!

Completa estas oraciones con las preposiciones **por** o **para**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Fuimos al cibercafé <u>por</u> la tarde. | 10. Juan está enfermo. Tengo que trabajar _____ él. |
| 2. Necesitas un navegador GPS _____ encontrar la casa de Luis. | 11. Estuvimos en Canadá _____ dos meses. |
| 3. Entraron _____ la puerta. | 12. _____ mí, el español es fácil. |
| 4. Quiero un pasaje _____ Buenos Aires. | 13. Tengo que estudiar la lección _____ el lunes. |
| 5. _____ arrancar el carro, necesito la llave. | 14. Voy a ir _____ la carretera. |
| 6. Arreglé el televisor _____ mi amigo. | 15. Compré dulces _____ mi novia. |
| 7. Estuvieron nerviosos _____ el examen. | 16. Compramos el auto _____ un buen precio. |
| 8. ¿No hay una gasolinera _____ aquí? | |
| 9. El reproductor de MP3 es _____ usted. | |

recursos

