



# SPANISH TABLE

Por and para: Summary of uses



| Uses of <b>POR</b>                                           | Equivalent to                       | Example                                                    | Translation                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reason/cause                                                 | because of                          | <i>No pude llegar a tiempo por el tráfico.</i>             | I couldn't arrive on time because of the traffic.          |
| Duration                                                     | for                                 | <i>Corrí por treinta minutos.</i>                          | I ran for thirty minutes.                                  |
| Approximate time                                             | by, around                          | <i>Vendrá a casa por diciembre.</i>                        | He'll come back home around December.                      |
| Specific parts of the day                                    | in, at                              | <i>Estudiamos por la mañana/por la tarde/por la noche.</i> | We study in the morning/in the afternoon/evening/at night. |
| Frequency and speed                                          | per, by, a                          | <i>Tomo clases de español tres veces por semana.</i>       | I take Spanish lessons three times a week.                 |
|                                                              |                                     | <i>El límite en la zona escolar es 25 millas por hora.</i> | The speed limit in the school zone is 25 miles per hour.   |
| <i>estar + por + infinitive</i><br><i>estar + por + noun</i> | to be about to<br>to be in favor of | <i>Estaba por llamarle.</i>                                | I was about to call him.                                   |
|                                                              |                                     | <i>Estamos por la igualdad de derechos.</i>                | We are in favor of equal rights.                           |
| Movement in space                                            | along, by,<br>through, around       | <i>Paseamos por la playa.</i>                              | We took a walk along the beach.                            |
|                                                              |                                     | <i>Estoy mirando por la ventana.</i>                       | I'm looking through the window.                            |
|                                                              |                                     | <i>Antes vivía por el hospital.</i>                        | I used to live by the hospital.                            |
|                                                              |                                     | <i>Dejé las llaves por aquí.</i>                           | I left my keys around here.                                |



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|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tasks to complete                            | (yet) to be done              | <i>Tengo tres libros por terminar.</i>                                                                       | I have three books to finish.                                                                   |
| Transportation and communication             | by means of, by, via, through | <i>Viajamos por bus hasta Cusco.</i><br><i>Te aviso por chat.</i>                                            | We traveled by bus to Cusco.<br>I'll let you know via chat.                                     |
| Substitutions                                | on behalf of, instead of      | <i>Trabajo por ti mañana.</i><br><i>Lo hice por ti.</i>                                                      | I'll take your shift tomorrow.<br>I did it for you (on your behalf).                            |
| Equivalent to "for the sake of" and "out of" | for the sake of, out of       | <i>Hablar por hablar.</i><br><i>Lo hice por respeto.</i>                                                     | To speak for the sake of speaking.<br>I did it out of respect.                                  |
| Agent in passive sentences                   | by                            | <i>El libro fue escrito por un autor famoso.</i>                                                             | The book was written by a famous author.                                                        |
| Rates, multiplication, and exchanges         | for, "times"                  | <i>El interés es del 6 por ciento.</i><br><i>Tres por tres es nueve.</i><br><i>Lo compré por 10 dólares.</i> | The interest rate is 6 percent.<br>Three times three is nine.<br>She bought it for ten dollars. |
| With verbs of movement                       | to go get something           | <i>Voy (a) por la comida.</i>                                                                                | I'll go fetch some food.                                                                        |



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| Uses of <b>PARA</b>              | Equivalent to             | Example                                               | Translation                                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Purpose                          | to/in order to            | <i>Vino a este país para estudiar.</i>                | He came to this country to/in order to study.  |
| Deadlines                        | due, for                  | <i>El reporte es para el próximo miércoles.</i>       | The report is due next Wednesday.              |
| Destinations                     | to, towards               | <i>Voy para la universidad.</i>                       | I'm headed to the university.                  |
| Recipients                       | for                       | <i>Esta flores son para mi madre.</i>                 | These flowers are for my mother.               |
| Opinions                         | to, for, according to     | <i>Para mí, él es un genio.</i>                       | To me, he is a genius.                         |
| Contrasts                        | for                       | <i>Sofía es muy alta para su edad.</i>                | Sofia is very tall for her age.                |
| Status                           | as, with the status of    | <i>La eligieron para presidenta de comité.</i>        | She was elected committee chair.               |
| Lack of inclination              | not to be in the mood for | <i>Estoy muy enojada, no estoy para bromas.</i>       | I'm very angry, I'm not in the mood for jokes. |
| <i>estar + para + infinitive</i> | to be ready               | <i>Este mango está perfecto; está para comérselo.</i> | This mango is perfect; it's ready to eat.      |
| <i>(Para) con</i>                | to, towards               | <i>Es muy amable (para) con todos.</i>                | She's nice to everyone.                        |
| Employer                         | for                       | <i>Luis trabaja para una compañía de seguros.</i>     | Luis works for an insurance company.           |

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