



SPANISH TABLE

Por and para: Summary of uses



Uses of POR	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>El límite en la zona escolar es 25 millas por hora.</i>	I take Spanish lessons three times a week. The speed limit in the school zone is 25 miles per hour.
<i>estar + por + infinitive</i> <i>estar + por + noun</i>	to be about to to be in favor of	<i>Estaba por llamarle.</i> <i>Estamos por la igualdad de derechos.</i>	I was about to call him. We are in favor of equal rights.
Movement in space	along, by, through, around	<i>Paseamos por la playa.</i> <i>Estoy mirando por la ventana.</i> <i>Antes vivía por el hospital.</i> <i>Dejé las llaves por aquí.</i>	We took a walk along the beach. I'm looking through the window. I used to live by the hospital. 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> <i>Te aviso por chat.</i>	We traveled by bus to Cusco. I'll let you know via chat.
Substitutions	on behalf of, instead of	<i>Trabajo por ti mañana.</i> <i>Lo hice por ti.</i>	I'll take your shift tomorrow. 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> <i>Lo hice por respeto.</i>	To speak for the sake of speaking. 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> <i>Tres por tres es nueve.</i> <i>Lo compré por 10 dólares.</i>	The interest rate is 6 percent. Three times three is nine. 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 PARA	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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