

Por vs Para

When to use each Spanish preposition

Memory Aid: **POR = DREEM** Duration, Reason, Exchange, Emotion, Movement
PARA = PACT Purpose, Audience (recipient), Comparison, Time (deadline)

Tip: PARA points forward (goal/future). POR looks back (reason/cause).

1. When to Use POR

Movement/Travel	Caminamos por el parque. We walked through the park.
Duration	Estudí por dos horas. I studied for two hours.
Exchange	Pagué 50 euros por el libro. I paid 50 euros for the book.
Reason/Cause	Lo hice por ti. I did it because of you.
On behalf of	Hablo por mi equipo. I speak on behalf of my team.
Communication	Te llamo por teléfono. I'll call you by phone.

2. When to Use PARA

Destination	Salgo para Madrid. I'm leaving for Madrid.
Recipient	Este regalo es para ti. This gift is for you.
Deadline	Lo necesito para el viernes. I need it by Friday.
Purpose/Goal	Estudio para aprender. I study in order to learn.
Opinion	Para mí, es difícil. For me, it is difficult.
Comparison	Para un niño, es alto. For a child, he is tall.

3. Useful Resources

- **Por vs Para Guide**
spanishgrammar.co.uk/por-para
- **Por & Para in Real Contexts**
spanishgrammar.co.uk/por-para-real-contexts
- **Practice Exercises**
spanishgrammar.co.uk/practice-prepositions/por-para-1

Common Expressions

POR

por favor
please

por supuesto
of course

por fin
finally

por lo menos
at least

por ejemplo
for example

por eso
therefore

por cierto
by the way

PARA

para siempre
forever

para nada
not at all

para variar
for a change

para que
so that

para colmo
to top it off

para empezar
to begin with

para entonces
by then