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How To Use the Spanish Preposition 'Hacia'

Common preposition usually means 'toward'

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Hacia is a Spanish [preposition](#) typically meaning "toward." It is usually used to indicate motion toward a person or object, although it can also be used to indicate a favorable attitude toward a person or object.

Hacia is pronounced something like OSS-yah. It should not be confused with *hacía*, a [conjugated](#) form of the verb [hacer](#).

Using *Hacia* To Indicate Motion Toward

Here are examples of using *hacia* when referring to motion toward a person or thing. Although "toward" is the most common translation, other prepositions sometimes work as well.

*Los jóvenes andaron **hacia** la dirección del lago.* (The youths walked **in** the direction of the lake.)

*Corrió **hacia** el coche para tratar de sacar a su amigo, vivo y conciente.* (He ran **at** the car in order to try to remove his friend, who was alive and conscious.)

*Girar **hacia** la izquierda y seguir hacia el oeste cinco millas.* (Turn **toward** the left and keep on going toward the west for five miles.)

*Mi hermana empezó a gatear **hacia** nuestro padre.* (My sister began to crawl **toward** our father.)

Hacia can be used with *abajo*, *adelante*, *arriba*, and [atrás](#), respectively, to mean "downward," "forward," "upward," and "backward." Similarly, it can be used with [points of the compass](#) and other words to act as the equivalent of the English suffix "-ward."

*Mover el cursor **hacia adelante** al final de la línea.* (Move the cursor **forward** to the end of the line.)

*La anaforía es la tendencia de los ojos a moverse **hacia arriba** cuando están en reposo.* (Anaphora is the tendency for the eyes to move **upward** when they are at rest.)

*Los vientos más fuertes del planeta avanzan **hacia el este** a una velocidad de 1.600 kilómetros por hora.* (The planet's strongest winds blow **eastward** at a speed of 1,600 kilometers per hour.)

*¿Qué pasaría si un satélite se dirigiera a toda velocidad **hacia la Tierra**?* (What would happen if a satellite were directed **earthward** at full speed?)

The motion can be figurative as well as literal:

*Viajamos **hacia** la libertad económica.* (We are journeying **toward** economic liberty.)

*El mundo camina dormido **hacia** un desastre climático.* (The world is sleepwalking its way **toward** a climate disaster.)

*Con un ritmo energético, “Un paso **hacia** la paz” es una canción llena de optimismo y esperanza.*
(With an energetic rhythm, “A Step **Toward** Peace” is a song full of optimism and hope.)

Using *Hacia* for Direction Without Motion

Use of *hacia* doesn't always indicate motion. It is used often with *mirar* and other verbs to indicate the direction someone is looking, either literally or figuratively. And it can also be used to indicate the existence of someone or something in a certain direction.

*Natalia miró **hacia** Mateo con un gesto de frustración.* (Natalia looked **toward** Mateo with a look of frustration on her face.)

*La organización mira **hacia** el futuro tras un año de cambio.* (The organization is looking **toward** the future after a year of change.)

*Desde Atenas y **hacia** el norte hay trenes regulares diarios a muchas ciudades.* (From Athens and **toward** the north there are regular daily trains to many cities.)

*En el camino **hacia** la escuela hay ruido y mucho tránsito.* (On the road **toward** the school there is much noise and traffic.)

Using *Hacia* for Expressing Attitudes

Hacia can be used in expressing emotions or attitudes toward a person or thing:

*Tiene sentimientos más profundos **hacia** ella,* (He has very deep feelings **for** her.)

*El sondeo reveló una disminución de la simpatía popular **hacia** el corte.* (The poll showed a loss of popular sympathy **for** the court.)

*Más pruebas apuntan **hacia** los rebeldes.* (More evidence is pointing **to** the rebels.)

*Es importante desarrollar actitudes positivas **hacia** la diversidad.* (It is important to develop positive attitudes **about** diversity.)

Using *Hacia* in Time Expressions

Finally, *hacia* is sometimes used to express approximations of *time*:

*Llega en helicóptero **hacia** las cinco de la mañana para traer provisiones.* (He arrives by helicopter at **about** 5 a.m. to bring provisions.)

*Fue construido **hacia** 1970.* (It was built **around** 1970.)

*El tren llega **hacia** las 10 de la mañana a Cajicá.* (The train arrives **around** 10 a.m. at Cajicá.)

Key Takeaways

The Spanish preposition *hacia* is usually the equivalent of "toward" when it is used to indicate a direction of motion or attention.

Hacia can also be used as the equivalent of the suffix "-ward" when used to indicate direction.

Hacia is also used in referring to attitudes toward or about something.