

## Por vs. Para

## Por

**Por** is used to talk about movement, modes and means of travel and communication, exchanges, duration, motivation, emotion, and substitution.

## 1. Travel and Communication

**Por** can be used to talk about travel or communication.

- Translations: *by, on, through*
- *Viajé por Francia y España. I traveled through France and Spain.*
- *La contacté por correo. I contacted her by mail.*

## 2. Exchanges

**Por** is used to talk about exchanges and trades.

- Translation: *for*
- *Te doy sesenta pesos por la mochila.*  
*I'll give you sixty pesos for that backpack.*



## 3. Duration

**Por** is used to talk about the length of time an activity went on for.

- Translation: *for*
- *Estudí por cinco horas. I studied for five hours.*

## 4. Motivation

**Por** is used to talk about motivations or reasons for doing something.

- Translation: *because of*
- *Por su amor a los niños, quiere ser pediatra. Because of her love for children, she wants to be a pediatrician.*

## 5. Emotion

**Por** is used to indicate the recipient of or cause for an emotional reaction.

- Translations: *for, towards, at, on behalf of*
- *Tengo tanto amor por ti. I have so much love for you.*

## 6. Substitution

**Por** is used to indicate that someone or something is taking the place of another person or thing.

- Translations: *for, instead of, on behalf of*
- *Estoy buscando aquel libro por Cecilia. I am looking for that book on behalf of Cecilia.*

## Para

**Para** is used to talk about destinations, recipients, deadlines, goals, opinions, and comparisons.

## 1. Destinations

**Para** is used to indicate the destination or end point of an object or person.

- Translation: *for*
- *Salgo para Chile mañana. I leave for Chile tomorrow.*

## 2. Recipients

**Para** is used to indicate the intended recipient of a gift, as well as the recipient of a person's work (i.e., their employer).

- Translation: *for*
- *Este regalo es para Adela. This present is for Adela.*
- *Anita trabaja para la RAE. Anita works for the RAE.*



## 3. Deadlines

**Para** is used to indicate when something is due.

- Translations: *for, by, on*
- *Necesito la presentación para el viernes. I need this presentation by Friday.*

## 4. Goals

**Para** is used to talk about goals and purposes.

- Translation: *in order to*
- *Trabaja mucho para ganar más dinero. She works a lot in order to make more money.*

## 5. Opinions

**Para** is used with a pronoun or name to express an opinion.

- Translation: *for, to, according to, in one's opinion*
- *Para mí, el español es muy romántico. In my opinion, Spanish is very romantic.*

## 6. Comparisons

**Para** is used to compare something or someone to a standard, such as cheapness or speed.

- Translation: *for*
- *Para ser tan barata, esta hamburguesa es deliciosa. For being so cheap, this burger is delicious.*

## Useful Phrases with Por and Para

Por Phrase	English
por ejemplo	for example
por favor	please
por supuesto	of course
por ciento	percent
por qué	why
por fin	finally
Gracias por tu ayuda.	Thanks for your help.

Para Phrase	English
para siempre	forever
para variar	just for a change
para que	so that, in order that
para qué	for what reason
para dónde	where to
para ti	for you
para nada	not at all