

Por y Para

The following table shows the uses of **Por** and **Para**

POR	PARA
Reason	Purpose
For the sake of / on behalf of	Destination (heading for)
Getting / collecting something	Destination (intended for)
Exchange	Suitability
Feeling towards something	Limit of time / fixed point
Duration of time	Duration of time (fixed limit)
By	
Through, around, in	
Per	

The Uses of Para

1. Destination	<p><i>Voy para la puerta.</i> I'm going to the door. <i>Viajo para España.</i> I'm travelling to Spain. <i>El regalo es para ellas.</i> The present is for them.</p>
2. Proposition	<p><i>Voy a La Argentina para estudiar español.</i> I'm going to Argentina to [in order to] study Spanish.</p>
3. Use of things	<p><i>Es para medir drogas.</i> It's for measuring drugs. <i>No sirve para nada.</i> It's not useful for anything.</p>
4. Indicate a comparison	<p><i>Para un jóven, él es buen mecánico.</i> For such a young guy, he's a good mechanic. <i>Para un canadiense, habla bien el español.</i> For a Canadian, he speaks Spanish well.</p>
5. Time Limit or date of an action - deadline	<p><i>Tiene que salir para el tres de agosto.</i> You must leave by August 3rd. <i>Vamos a terminar la clase para las once.</i> We're going to finish class by 11:00. <i>Necesito el informe para miércoles.</i> I need the report by Wednesday.</p>
6. Indicate an opinion	<p><i>Para mí, El Matrix es una película fabulosa.</i> For me (in my opinion), The Matrix is a great film. <i>Para ella, Leonardo DiCaprio es muy guapo.</i> For her [in her opinion], Leonardo DiCaprio is very handsome.</p>
7. To be employed by Someone	<p><i>Trabajo para UNC-Chapel Hill.</i> I work for UNC-Chapel Hill. <i>Laura trabaja para la policía.</i></p>

	Laura works for the police. <i>Mi esposo trabaja para IBM.</i> My husband works for IBM
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The Uses of Por

1. The idea of through or by	<i>Paso por el parque.</i> I go through the park.
2. Cause or reason of a situation	<i>Él lucha por la libertad.</i> He fights for freedom.
3. Exchange	<i>José compra una botella de vino por \$300.</i> José buys a bottle of wine for \$300.
4. Total time of an action - duration of time	<i>Voy a Cuba por 3 años.</i> I'm going to Cuba for 3 years.
5. Substitution	<i>José trabaja por mí.</i> José is working for me (in my place, because I am ill or on vacation)
6. Units of measure	<i>por libra, por yarda etc...</i> by the pound, by the yard etc...
7. Frequency	<i>Estudiamos español dos días por semana.</i> We study Spanish 2 days a (per) week.
8. Responsibility	<i>Es escrito por Jorge Luis Borge.</i> It's written by Jorge Luis Borges. <i>Es arrestado por la policía.</i> He is arrested by the police.
9. Error in identity	<i>Tomé a ella por la ratona.</i> I mistook her for the shoplifter.
10. Mode of transport or communication	<i>por avión</i> [by plane], <i>por Fax</i> [by Fax], <i>por teléfono</i> [by phone], <i>por Delta, por Greyhound Bus</i>
11. To Pick up: (Recoger)	<i>Mi mamá pasa por nosotros.</i> My mother is picking us up. <i>Vengo por ti.</i> I'm coming for you.
12. Relations, proportions, dimensions	$3 \times 4 = 3 \text{ por } 4.$ $100\% = 100 \text{ por ciento.}$
13. Impersonal expressions	<i>Por la mañana, tarde, noche:</i> in (during) the morning, afternoon, evening. <i>Por favor, por fin, por eso, por lo general, por lo menos:</i> Please, finally, that's why/so, in general, at least.
14. Something incomplete	<i>Tengo tres páginas por leer.</i> I have three pages to go/ left to read.
15. An indefinite place, vague direction	<i>Por el norte, sur, este, oeste.</i> In the north, south, east, west.