

Intermediate – Part 1

Week 3

1. *Las Preposiciones – Prepositions:*

Prepositions are words that connect two elements of a sentence. Let's connect the words “*casa*” (house) and “*oro*” (gold)

casa de oro (house of gold)

Spanish prepositions have no number or gender.

List of Simple Spanish Prepositions

ordered by frequency of use

de – of, from, about

Usage

“**De**” is commonly used to express possession, nationality, subject, and cause. It can even be used to express what something is made of or the time in which something happened.

Examples

- *Esa es la casa de mi madre.* (That's my mother's house.)
- *Soy de México.* (I am from Mexico.)
- *No sé nada de ella.* (I know nothing about her.)
- *Murió de desnutrición.* (He died of malnutrition.)
- *Mira mi vestido de seda.* (Look at my silk dress!)
- *Estudio de noche.* (I study at night.)

Important: When the preposition “de” appears before the definite article “el”, it becomes “del”.

- *Soy de el Reino Unido.* (incorrect)
- *Soy del Reino Unido.* (correct – I am from the United Kingdom)

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a – to, at

Usage

“To” or “at” in Spanish is “**a**”. It is used when the direct object of a verb is an animal or a person or something personified. We also use “a” to introduce an indirect object, to express time, to give an order, to indicate manner and motion.

Examples

- *Busco a mi padre.* (I am looking for my father.)
- *Escribe una carta a tu madre.* (Write a letter to your mother.)
- *Nos vemos a las 6:00 pm.* (See you at 6:00 pm.)
- *¡A comer!* (Go eat!)
- *Llegué allí a pie.* (I got there on foot.)
- *Voy a Paris.* (I am going to Paris.)

Important: When the preposition “a” is before the definite article “el”, it becomes “al”.

- *Voy a el parque.* (incorrect)
 - *Voy al parque.* (correct – I am going to the park.)
-

en – in, on, at, by

Usage

“**En**” can be used to mean “in”, “on”, “at” or “by” in Spanish, and it is used to indicate location and time. It is also used to indicate how people get to other places.

Examples

- *en navidad* (at Christmas)
- *en octubre* (in October)
- *en la cocina* (in the kitchen)
- *en el piso* (on the floor)
- *en un coche* (in a car)
- *en la puerta* (at the door)
- *en carro* (by car)

Important: “**En**” is not used with specific hours or days of the week.

- *a las 3:00 pm* (at 3:00pm)
 - *el lunes* (on Monday)
-

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por – for (only when it appears before a period of time), because of, by

Usage

“**Por**” is used to express time, cause, and gratitude. It can mean “for”, “because of”, or “by” in Spanish, and it is also used in multiplications.

Examples

- *Viajaré por varias semanas.* (I will travel for several weeks.)
 - *Está triste por ti.* (He is sad because of you.)
 - *¡Gracias por tu tiempo!* (Thanks for your time!)
 - *dos por dos* (two by two, two times two)
-

con – with

Usage

“with” or “**con**” in Spanish can be used to indicate the instrument utilized to perform an action.

Examples

- *Escribe con este lápiz.* (Write with this pencil.)
 - *Quiero café con leche.* (I want coffee with milk.)
-

para – for, to

Usage

“**Para**” is used to establish deadlines and to indicate purpose and destination.

Examples

- *Necesito el reporte para el viernes.* (I need the report by Friday.)
 - *Estudio para tener buenas notas.* (I study hard to get good grades.)
 - *El regalo es para ti.* (The gift is for you.)
-

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sin – without

Usage

“Without” or “**sin**” in Spanish expresses lack of something.

Examples

- *No puedo vivir sin ti.* (I can't live without you.)
 - *Café sin leche* (Coffee without milk)
-

sobre – on, about, regarding

Usage

“**Sobre**” is used to indicate location. It also means “about”.

Examples

- *Las flores están sobre la mesa.* (The flowers are on the table.)
 - *Tengo preguntas sobre la clase.* (I have questions about the class.)
-

hasta – up to, until

Usage

“**Hasta**” denotes limit.

Examples

- *Puedo contar hasta 100 en español.* (I can count up to 100 in Spanish.)
- *El bus no saldrá hasta las 9:00 am.* (The bus won't leave until 9:00 am.)

Important: In Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, “**hasta**” also means “at”.

El tren saldrá hasta las 12:00 pm. (The train will leave at 12:00 pm.)

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entre – between, among, amid

Usage

“**Entre**” is used to express that someone or something is between, among or amid things.

Examples

- *Hay un espacio entre la pared y la silla.* (There is a space between the wall and the chair.)
 - *Hablaron del proyecto, entre otras cosas.* (They talked about the project, among other things.)
 - *El hombre está entre las ovejas.* (The man is amid the sheep.)
-

desde – from, since

Usage

“**Desde**” denotes a point in time or place and can mean “from” or “since” in Spanish.

Examples

- *Vivo aquí desde 1990.* (I have lived here since 1990.)
 - *¡Saludos desde España!* (Greetings from Spain!)
-

hacia – toward

Usage

“Toward” or “**hacia**” in Spanish is used to express a sense of movement.

Examples

- *Ve hacia las montañas.* (Go toward the mountains.)
-

contra – against

Usage

“Against” or “**contra**” in Spanish is used to express opposition.

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Examples

- *No tengo nada contra ti.* (I have nothing against you.)
-

bajo – under

Usage

“**Bajo**” expresses dependence or subordination and means “under” in Spanish.

Examples

- *El niño está bajo mi cuidado.* (The child is under my care.)
 - *La pelota está baja de la mesa.* (The ball is under the table.)
-

ante – before

Usage

“**Ante**” means in the presence of.

Examples

- *Ella estaba parada ante el juez.* (She was standing before the judge.)
-

según – according to

Usage

“**Según**” is used to express the opinion of others. It can be used before names and pronouns and means “according to” in Spanish.

Examples

- *Según Carlos, Ana miente.* (According to Carlos, Ana lies.)
 - *Según los críticos, la película es mala.* (According to the critics, the movie is bad.)
-

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tras – after, behind

Usage

“**Tras**” is used express time and place, and can mean “after” or “behind” in Spanish. When it expresses time, it means that something happened after something else. When it expresses place, it means “behind”.

Examples

- *Llegamos a un acuerdo tras una discusión.* (We got to an agreement after a discussion.)
 - *El perro está tras la puerta.* (The dog is behind the door.)
-

mediante – through

Usage

“**Mediante**” means through in Spanish.

Examples

- *La entrevista será mediante una llamada.* (The interview will be through a phone call.)
-

durante – during

Usage

“During” is “**durante**” in Spanish. It expresses simultaneity.

Examples

- *Escuché música durante el viaje.* (I listened to music during the trip.)
-

versus – versus

Usage “**Versus**” is used to express opposition. It is the same word in English, only pronounced differently.

Examples

- *El partido de hoy es Francia versus Alemania.* (Today’s match is France versus Germany.)

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vía – through

Usage

“**Vía**” is used to express how something will be sent or received. It is also used to express the places in which a plane stopped.

Examples

- *Te enviaré la carta vía correo electrónico.* (I’ll send the letter through an email.)
 - *Vine vía Canadá.* (I came through Canada.)
-

List of Compound Spanish Prepositions

delante de – in front of, before

Usage

“**Delante de**” means in the sight of or in the presence of.

Examples

- *Compórtate bien delante de la gente.* (Behave well in front of people.)
-

detrás de – behind

Usage

“**Detrás de**” is used to express that something is behind or after something else in Spanish.

Examples

- *El gato está detrás de la pelota.* (The cat is behind the ball.)
-

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encima de – on, above

Usage

“**Encima de**” is used to indicate that something is on top of something else and means “on” or “above” in Spanish.

Examples

- *El libro está encima de la cama.* (The book is on the bed.)
 - *Escribe encima de la línea.* (Write above the line.)
-

enfrente de – in front of

Usage

“**Enfrente de**” means “in front of” in Spanish and is used to express that something is opposite something else.

Examples

- *Siéntate enfrente de mí.* (Sit in front of me.)