

POR vs. PARA



Reason

vs.



Purpose



Travelling

vs.



Final destination



Duration

vs.



Deadlines



By someone

vs.



For someone

POR VS. PARA

1. Por is for reason, para is for purpose

- Use por to talk about the reason for doing something. In this scenario, you'd translate it as "because of".
- Use para to describe the purpose behind doing something. Consider its English translation to be "in order to".

2. Por is for travelling, para is for the final destination

- Por describes travelling through or around a place.
- Para describes travelling to a place.
 - It refers to the final destination of the journey.

3. Por is for duration, para is for deadlines

- Use por to describe duration – in other words, how long something lasts.
 - The trick for spotting this scenario? You should always be able switch por for durante ("during") in the sentence.
- We always use para to refer to a date in the future – typically, when there is a deadline looming.

4. Por is "by" someone, para is "for" someone

- Por refers to a person who did something – in plain English, something was done by someone.
- Para refers to the person something was done for – in other words, something was done for someone.

1. POR IS FOR REASON, PARA IS FOR PURPOSE

Practice Questions:

Estudio español _____ mi trabajo.
I'm studying Spanish because of my job.

Estudio español _____ trabajar en Argentina.
I'm studying Spanish in order to work in Argentina.

2. POR IS FOR TRAVELLING, PARA IS FOR THE FINAL DESTINATION

Practice Questions:

Este autobús pasa _____ el centro de la ciudad.
This bus goes through the city centre.

El año pasado viajamos _____ España.
Last year we travelled around Spain.

Este autobús va _____ el centro de la ciudad.
This bus goes to the city centre.

3. POR IS FOR DURATION, PARA IS FOR DEADLINES

Practice Questions:

Estudié _____ (durante) dos horas.
I studied for (during) 2 hours.

Necesito terminar el informe _____ mañana.
I need to finish the report by tomorrow.

4. POR IS “BY” SOMEONE, PARA IS “FOR” SOMEONE

Practice Questions:

Este puente fue construido _____ los romanos.
This bridge was built by the Romans.

Compré este libro _____ mi hermana.
I bought this book for my sister.