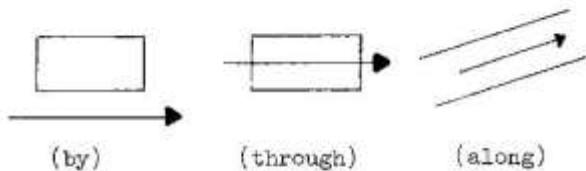


Por versus para (SFM-276-277)

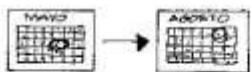
The following chart lists the most important meanings of *por* and *para*.

POR



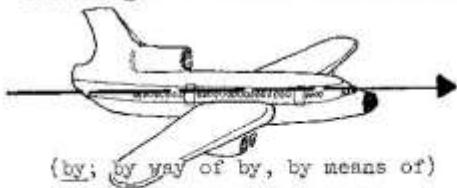
1. El tren va por Lima.
The train is going through (by) Lima.

El tren va por la calle.
The train is going down (along) the street.



(for; for a period of time)

2. La asignación es por tres meses.
The assignment is for three months.

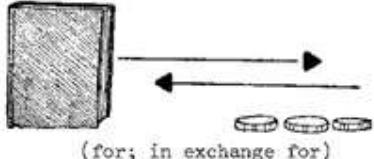


3. La carta viene por avión.
The letter is coming by plane.

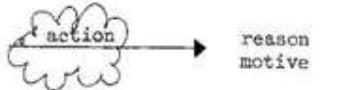


(for; in place of)

4. Trabajo por mi padre.
I am working for (in place of) my father.



5. Vamos a vender el libro por tres pesos.
Let's sell the book for three pesos.

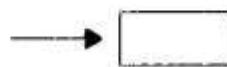


reason
motive

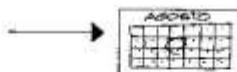
(because of, for, because of)

6. El es diestro por su edad.
He is skillful because of his age.
(Thirty years old)

PARA

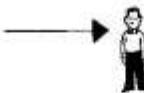


1. El tren sale para Lima.
The train is leaving for Lima.



(for; "until" or "due on")

2. La asignación es para el cinco de mayo.
The assignment is for May fifth.



(for; intended for)

3. La carta viene para Juan.
The letter is coming for John.



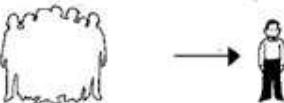
(for; for the benefit of)

4. Trabajo para mi padre.
I am working for (in his employ) my father.



(to; in order to) para + infinitive

5. Vamos a vender el libro para ganar tres pesos.
Let's sell the book to earn three pesos.



(for; used to compare against a group)

6. El es diestro para su edad.
He is skillful for his age.
(Ten years old)

Rate _____ / _____
 (per)

El tren corre a cien kilómetros por hora.
 The train runs at 100 kilometers per hour.



(for; to get, to fetch for) ir + por + a noun

Voy a la universidad por mi hermano.
 I'm going to the university for my brother.

In summary, the following words will help you distinguish between *por* and *para*.

Por

1 through, by, along

2 for, for a period of time

3 by, by way of, by means of

4 for, in place of

5 for, in exchange for

6 for, because of

7 rate

8 for, to get, to fetch

para

1 for, headed for

2 for, until, due on

3 for, intended for

4 for, for the benefit of

5 to, in order to

6 for, comparison against a group

Phrases with por

Por ejemplo por lo general

Por la mañana por primera(segunda, tercera...) vez

Por favor por su puesto

Por eso por cierto- certainly

Por consiguiente-(consequently) por fin

Por lo contrario por lo visto -apparently

Por suerte por todas partes