

STEP BY STEP

A2 SPANISH PREPOSITIONS



what is a preposition?

Think of a preposition as a **connector** - linking two elements of a sentence together.

‘Entramos la casa **por** la ventana.’

‘Este anillo es **de** Carlos.’

simple prepositions in Spanish

a = to, at

ante = before

bajo = under

con = with

contra = against

de = of, from

desde = from, since

en = in, on, into

entre = between, among

hacia = toward

hasta = until

mediante = through

para = for, in order to, to

por = for, by, through

según = according to

sin = without

sobre = over, above

tras = after

In this instance, we will be focusing on Spanish verbs with the following prepositions:

a, de, con, por + en

N.B - Verbs following a preposition are **always** in the **infinitive form**

Acabo de **comprarlo**.

I have just bought it.

Te invito a **cenar**.

I invite you to have dinner.

Sueña con **vivir** en España.

He/she dreams about living in Spain.

Verbs followed by the preposition 'a'

acercarse a = to approach, come close to

acostumbrarse a = to get used to

aprender a = to learn to

asistir a = to attend

atreverse a = to dare to

ayudar a = to help

comenzar a = to start to

correr a = to run to

decidirse a = to decide to

empezar a = to begin to

enseñar a = to teach to

inspirar a = to inspire to

invitar a = to invite to

ir a = to go to

llamar a = to call

llegar a = to arrive at/to

montar a = to ride

oler a = to smell of

oponerse a = to oppose

ponerse a = to start to

quedarse a = to stay

regresar a = to go back to

resistirse a = to resist

saber a = to taste like

salir a = to go out to

sonar a = to sound like

venir a = to come to

volver a = to return (something) to

The preposition '**a**' translates to 'at' or 'to' and you can see that this holds true in many of the examples.

However, there are also occasions of verbs followed by the preposition 'a' which are translated slightly differently...

ejemplos with the preposition 'a'

Empieza **a** correr.
He/she begins to run.

El agua sabe **a** ginebra.
The water tastes like gin.

Suena **a** mentiras.
It sounds like lies.

Verbs followed by the preposition 'de'

acabar de = to have just

acordarse de = to remember
(someone or something)

alegrarse de = to be glad
about

dejar de = to stop (doing
something)

olvidarse de = to forget about
(someone or something)

terminar de = to finish (doing
something)

preocuparse de = to be
worried about

tratar de = to try to,
attempt to

depender de = to depend
on

apartarse de = to keep
away from

disfrutar de = to enjoy

enamorarse de = to fall in
love with

llenar de = to fill with

ejemplos with the preposition 'de'

Me alegro **de** verte.

I'm glad to see you.

Acabo **de** bailar.

I have just danced.

Termina **de** jugar al fútbol.

He/she finishes playing football.

Verbs followed by the preposition 'con'

amenazar con = to threaten with

casarse con = to marry

acabar con = to finish with

contar con = to count on

cumplir con = to fulfill one's obligations toward

dar con = to find, stumble upon

quedarse con = to keep

soñar con = to dream about

tener que ver con = to have something to do with

tropezar con = to trip over, stumble over

ejemplos with the preposition 'con'

Maria se casa **con** Jorge. Maria is marrying Jorge.

¡Cuenta **con** migo!.
Count on me!

Sueño **con** comprar una casa.
I dream about buying a house.

Verbs followed by the preposition 'por'

alegrarse por = to be happy for

cambiar por = to exchange for

comenzar por = to start by, start with

esforzarse por = to strive for, struggle for

jurar por = to swear by, swear on

luchar por = to fight for

pagar por = to pay for

preocuparse por = to worry about

(outcome) **rezar por** = to pray for

votar por = to vote for

ejemplos with the preposition 'por'

Luchamos **por** libertad.

We fight for freedom.

Comenzó **por** contar la historia.

He/she started by telling the story.

Pepe juró **por** su vida.

Pepe swore on his life.

Verbs followed by the preposition 'en'

apoyarse en = to rely on, lean on, depend on

consentir en = to consent to

insistir en = to insist on

confiar en = to trust in

consistir en = to consist of

convertirse en = to turn into, become

fijarse en = to pay attention to

pensar en = to think about
reparar en = to notice

ejemplos with the preposition 'en'

La receta consiste **en** tres ingredientes.
The recipe consists of three ingredients.

Piensa **en** su hermano.
He thinks about his brother.

El profesor no reparó **en** el alumno.
The teacher didn't notice the student.

There are also verbs that require a preposition in English but not in Spanish...

agradacer = **to be grateful for**

apagar = **to turn off (a light)**

bajar = **to go down**

borrar = **to cross out**

botar = **to throw out**

buscar = **to look for**

caerse = **to fall down**

calentar = **to heat up**

colgar = **to hang up**

cortar = **to cut off**

encender = **to switch on (a light)**

entregar = **to hand over**

escuchar = **to listen to**

esperar = **to wait for**

mirar = **to look at**

pagar = **to pay for**

poder = **to be able to**

quitar = **to take off**

sacar = **to take out**

salir = **to go out**

subir = **to go up**

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