**“Por” and “para” have a variety of meanings, and they are often confused because they can each be translated as “for.”**

**To learn to use “por” and “para” correctly, you need to do two things:**

1. **Learn the rules for how por and para are used.**
2. **Memorize model sentences.**

**“Por” has many uses, and so it is the more problematic of the two.**

***Este regalo es para Juan.*** *This gift is for Juan.* ***Gracias por la información.*** *Thanks for the information.*

1. ***Rule:****to express gratitude or apology****Model:****Gracias por la ayuda.  
   (Thanks for the help.)*

***9. Rule:****for means of communication or transportation****Model:****Prefiero viajar por tren y hablar por teléfono.  
(I prefer to travel by train and speak by phone.)*

***10. Rule:****in cases of mistaken identity, or meaning “to be seen as”****Model:****Me tienen por loco.  
(They take me for crazy.)*

***11. Rule:****to show the reason for an errand (with ir, venir, pasar, mandar, volver, and preguntar)****Model:****Paso por ti a las ocho.  
(I’ll come by for you at eight o’clock.)*

***12. Rule:****when followed by an infinitive, to express an action that remains to be completed, use por + infinitive****Model:****La cena está por cocinar.  
(Dinner has yet to be cooked.)*

***13. Rule:****to express cause or reason****Model:****El hombre murió por falta de agua.  
The man died for lack of water.*

***14. Rule:****“estar por” means to be in the mood, or inclined to do something****Model:****Estoy por tomar café.  
(I’m in the mood for drinking coffee.)*

***15. Rule:****in passive constructions****Model:****El libro fue escrito por Octavio Paz.  
(The book was written by Octavio Paz.)*

1. ***Rule:****for multiplication and division****Model:****Dos por dos son cuatro.  
   (Two times two equals four.)*
2. ***Rule:****for velocity, frequency and proportion****Model:****Voy al restaurante cinco veces*

*por semana.  
(I go to the restaurant five times per week.)*

1. ***Rule:****meaning “through,” “along,” “by”*

*or “in the area of”****Model:****Andamos por el parque.  
(We walk through the park.)*

1. ***Rule:****when talking about exchange,*

*including sales****Model:****Él me dio diez dólares por el libro.  
(He gave me ten dollars for the book.)*

1. ***Rule:****to mean “on behalf of,” or “in favor of,”****Model:****No voté por nadie.  
   (I didn’t vote for anyone.)*
2. ***Rule:****to express a length of time****Model:****Yo estudié por dos horas.*

*I studied for two hours.*

1. *(****Rule****:To express an undetermined*

*or general time, meaning “during”****Model:****Se puede ver las estrellas por la noche.  
(One can see the stars during the night.)*