**“Para” — in contrast to “Por”, has relatively fewer uses.**

***Rule 1:****to indicate destination* ***Model:****El hombre salió para Madrid. (The man left for Madrid.)*

***Rule 2:****to show the use or purpose of a thing* ***Model:****El vaso es para agua. (The glass is for water.)*

***Rule 3:****to mean “in order to” or* ***Model:****Para hacer una paella, primero dore las carnes.*

*“for the purpose of” To make a paella, first sauté the meats.*

***Rule 4:****to indicate a recipient* ***Model:****Este regalo es para ti. (This gift is for you.)*

***Rule 5:****to express a deadline or specific time* ***Model:****Necesito el vestido para el lunes.  
(I need the dress by Monday.)*

***Rule 6:****to express a contrast from what is expected* ***Model:****Para un niño lee muy bien.  
(For a child, he reads very well.)*

***Rule 7:****“estar para” to express an action*

*that will soon be completed* ***Model:****La mujer está para dar a luz.  
(The woman is about to give birth.)*

It is quite important to learn to use these two prepositions correctly, because if you

inadvertently substitute one for the other, you might end up saying something altogether

different from what you had intended. Study the two examples:

***Juan compró el regalo para María.*** *Juan bought the gift for Maria.(he bought it to give to her)*

***Juan compró el regalo por María.*** *Juan bought the gift for Maria.(he bought it because she could not)*

“Por” and “para” can also be used in questions. “¿Por qué?” means “Why?” (for what reason) while “¿Para qué?” means “Why?” (for what purpose).

***¿Por qué estudias español?*** *For what reason do you study Spanish?*

*Possible answer:* ***Porque es un requisito.*** *Because it’s required.*

***¿Para qué estudias español?*** *For what purpose do you study Spanish?*

*Possible answer:* ***Para ser profesor de español.*** *In order to become a Spanish teacher.*