These two prepositions are generally translated into English as “for.”

**Use *para* when you mean:**

**1. Destination [to, in the direction of]:**

 *Mañana salgo* ***para*** *Madrid. Tomorrow I am leaving for Madrid.*

**2. Intended for [destined for, to go to or be given to (someone)]:**

 *Este vaso es* ***para*** *María y ese vaso es This glass is for Mary and this glass is*  ***para*** *José. for Joseph.*

**3. Purpose (in order to) [in order to + infinitive (often in order is not expressed)]:**

 *Estudio* ***para*** *llegar a ser médico. I am studying in order to become a doctor.*

**4. A comparison of some sort [in relation to (compared to) others]:**

 ***Para*** *ser norteamericano, habla español For an American, he speaks Spanish very*

 *muy bien. well.*

**5. To be used for or in:**

 *Arturo compró mucha fruta* ***para*** *el Arturo bought a lot of fruit for the picnic.*

 *picnic.*

**5. At some point in future time:**

 *Esta lección es* ***para*** *mañana. This lesson is for tomorrow.*

**Use *por* when you mean:**

**1. A length of time:**

 *Me quedé en casa* ***por*** *tres días. I stayed at home for three days.*

**2. In exchange for:**

 *¿Cuánto dinero me dará Ud.* ***por*** *mi How much money will you give me for my*

 *trabajo? work?*

**3. To send for:**

 *Vamos a enviar* ***por*** *el médico. We are going to send for the doctor.*

**4. By [by means of]:**

 *Este libro fue escrito* ***por*** *dos autores. This book was written by two authors.*

 *Quiero enviar esta carta* ***por*** *avión. I want to send this letter by plane.*

**5. For the sake of, as an obligation, on someone’s behalf:**

 *Quiero hacerlo* ***por*** *usted. I want to do it for you.*

**6. Through:**

 *Dimos un paseo* ***por*** *el parque. We took a walk through the park.*

**7. Along, by the edge of:**

 *Anduvimos* ***por*** *la playa. We walked along the beach.*

**8. To fight for:**

 *Luché* ***por*** *mi amigo. I fought for my friend.*

**9. Out of, because of + noun [on account of, about]:**

 *No quisieron hacerlo* ***por*** *miedo. They refused to do it out of (for) fear.*

**10. Per, when expressing frequency:**

 *Los alumnos asisten a la escuela cinco Students attend school five days a (per) week.*

 *días* ***por*** *semana.*

**11. During, in (with morning, afternoon, evening, etc.):**

 ***Por*** *la noche Arturo y Raquel fueron al In the evening Arturo and Raquel went to the*

 *Piccolo Navio. Piccolo Navio.*

**12. To go for someone or something:**

 *Mi madre fue* ***por*** *Carmen. My mother went for (went to get) Carmen.*

 *Mi madre fue* ***por*** *pan. My mother went for (went to get) bread.*

**13. To ask about, to inquire about, using *preguntar por*:**

 *Pregunto* ***por*** *el médico. I am sking for the doctor.*

**14. *Por* is also used in a number of fixed expressions:**

 ***por Dios*** *for heaven’s sake* ***por lo general*** *generally*

***por ejemplo*** *for example* ***por lo menos*** *at least*

***por eso*** *that’s why; for that* ***por primera/***  *for the first/last time*

 *reason* ***última vez***

***por favor*** *please* ***por supuesto*** *of course*

***por fin*** *finally* ***por todas partes*** *everywhere*

The preposition *por* is sometimes translated into English as “by,” although it has other meanings, such as “through,” “for.”

The preposition *de* is sometimes translated into English as “by” and it has other meanings, too, such as “of,” “from,” “in.”