

## Unit 3

**TENSE:** Preterite

**TIME:** Refers to specific, completed past actions

**KEY PHRASES:** Certain time; certain number of times

**STRUCTURE:** Simple tense: verb base and ending

# Verbs and Prepositions

The relationship between verbs and prepositions is a special one. In some cases, the preposition exists in the definition of the verb itself; in other cases, the meaning of the verb depends upon the preposition that follows it. In this unit, you will expand your vocabulary by exploring the intricate relationship between verbs and prepositions.

## Verbs Whose Meanings Include a Preposition

There are many Spanish verbs whose definitions in English include a preposition. It is important to know these verbs in order to resist the temptation to add a preposition when none is needed or when adding one is grammatically incorrect. A list of the more common verbs is provided below for you. In all cases the understood, or contained, word is italicized in the definition.

*examples:*

**Busco** mis zapatos.  
*I'm looking for* my shoes.

**Miras** las pinturas.  
*You look at* the paintings.

El plato **huyó** con la cuchara.  
The dish *ran away* with the spoon.

Los trapos **empapan** el aceite.  
The rags *soak up* the oil.

El jardinero **arranca** la maleza.  
The gardener *pulls out* the weeds.

**Escuchamos** música.  
*We listen to* music.

**Encendemos** las luces.  
*We turn on* the lights.

**Apagamos** las luces.  
*We turn off (out)* the lights.

The following are commonly used Spanish verbs whose definitions in English include a preposition. Note that the definitions given here are not complete for every verb; some have additional definitions that do not include a preposition in English.

<b>agradecer</b>	to be grateful (thankful) <i>for</i>
<b>anhelar</b>	to yearn (long) <i>to</i>
<b>apagar</b>	to turn <i>off</i>
<b>aprobar (o→ue)</b>	to approve <i>of</i>
<b>arrancar</b>	to root <i>up</i> ; to pull <i>out</i> ; to turn <i>on</i> (car)
<b>atravesar (e→ie)</b>	to go (run) <i>through</i> ; to go <i>across</i>

<b>averiguar</b>	to find <i>out</i>
<b>bajar</b>	to go <i>down</i> ; to descend
<b>borrar</b>	to cross <i>out</i> ; to erase
<b>botar</b>	to throw <i>away</i> ; to toss <i>out</i>
<b>buscar</b>	to look <i>for</i>
<b>caer(se)</b>	to fall <i>down</i>
<b>calentar (e→ie)</b>	to heat (warm) <i>up</i>
<b>colgar (o→ue)</b>	to hang <i>up</i>
<b>conocer</b>	to be acquainted <i>with</i> ; to know (a person or place)
<b>cortar</b>	to cut <i>off</i> ; to cut <i>out</i>
<b>criar</b>	to bring <i>up</i> ; to rear
<b>derribar</b>	to knock <i>down</i> ; to tear <i>down</i> ; to overthrow
<b>destacar</b>	to stand <i>out</i>
<b>elegir</b>	to elect (choose) <i>to</i>
<b>empapar</b>	to absorb; to soak (sponge) <i>up</i>
<b>encender (e→ie)</b>	to turn <i>on</i> (lights)
<b>enseñar</b>	to point <i>out</i> ; to teach
<b>entregar</b>	to hand <i>over</i> ; to deliver
<b>envolver (o→ue)</b>	to wrap <i>up</i>
<b>escuchar</b>	to listen <i>to</i>
<b>esperar</b>	to wait <i>for</i> ; to hope <i>for</i>
<b>huir</b>	to run away, flee <i>from</i>
<b>ignorar</b>	to be ignorant (unaware) <i>of</i>
<b>indicar</b>	to point <i>out</i>
<b>llevar</b>	to carry (take) <i>away</i>
<b>lograr</b>	to succeed <i>in</i> ; to manage <i>to</i>
<b>merecer</b>	to deserve <i>to</i>
<b>mirar</b>	to look <i>at</i>
<b>organizar</b>	to set <i>up</i> ; to organize
<b>pagar</b>	to pay <i>for</i>
<b>pedir (e→i)</b>	to ask <i>for</i>
<b>pisar</b>	to step <i>on</i> ; to trample
<b>platicar</b>	to talk <i>over</i> ; discuss
<b>poder</b>	to be able <i>to</i>
<b>poner</b>	to turn <i>on</i> (an appliance)
<b>preferir</b>	to prefer <i>to</i>
<b>pretender</b>	to seek (aspire) <i>to</i> ; to claim <i>to</i>
<b>quitar</b>	to take <i>off</i>
<b>recoger</b>	to pick <i>up</i>
<b>rogar (o→ue)</b>	to beg <i>for</i> ; to pray <i>for</i>
<b>saber</b>	to know how <i>to</i> (do something)
<b>sacar</b>	to take <i>out</i>
<b>salir</b>	to go <i>out</i> (of a place, on a date), leave
<b>señalar</b>	to point <i>out</i> , show
<b>separar</b>	to set <i>apart</i> ; to separate
<b>soler (o→ue)</b>	( <i>soler</i> + infinitive) to be accustomed <i>to</i> ; to be in the habit <i>of</i>
<b>soplar</b>	to blow <i>out</i>
<b>subir</b>	to go <i>up</i> ; to come <i>up</i> ; to get <i>on</i> (a train, bus, etc.)
<b>tachar</b>	to cross <i>out</i> ; to erase; to correct
<b>tender (e→ie)</b>	to hang <i>out</i> (laundry); to spread <i>out</i>
<b>yacer</b>	to lie <i>down</i>