



**AL & DEL:**

**CONTRACTIONS IN SPANISH**



# SPANISH CONTRACTIONS: AL + DEL

A + EL = AL



Al rato voy a ir al cine.  
Later, I'm going to the movies.

DE + EL = DEL



La bicicleta es del niño.  
It's the kid's s bike.

# USING DEL IN SPANISH

## KEY POINTS

- Del express origin, comparisons or possession.
- It's used with singular masculine nouns.
- Use de instead of 'de'l with proper nouns.



Mi mamá es del norte de México.  
My mom is from northern Mexico

Yo soy de México, ¿tú de dónde eres?  
I'm from Mexico. Where are you from?

# WHEN TO USE AL IN SPANISH

## KEY POINTS

- Al is the contraction of a + el.
- It's used with singular masculine nouns.
- Al must not be used with:
  - Feminine or plural nouns.
  - Proper nouns.



Despidieron al primo de Luis.  
They fired Luis's cousin.

Vamos a ir a El Paso.  
We're going to El Paso.

# SPANISH CONTRACTIONS: KEY POINTS

Al and del are the only two contractions in Spanish, and they're crucial for communication. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

- Both al and del contract with the article el. As a result, they work with singular masculine nouns.
  - A + el = al.
  - De + el = del.
- **Al expresses** direction, destination, location, time, or introduces the object in a sentence.
- **Del indicates** origin and possession. It can also be used in comparative sentences.
- The prepositions a and de **must be used instead** of the contractions with:
  - Proper nouns: “de Mexico” or “a El Paso, Texas”.
  - Feminine or plural nouns: “es de los niños”, “voy a la tienda”.
  - Singular masculine nouns preceded by Spanish determiners other than ‘el’: “es de mi hijo”.

# LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Contractions in Spanish: When to Use Del & Al](#)

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