

Incynergy Study Guide: Preposition 'A' in Spanish (Translated into English)

*One of the hardest part of any language is to learn which preposition to use with which expression or phrase. At times, there is an exact translation of a phrase or expression introduced by a preposition from one language to another; however, those cases are few and far between. Most of the time, the preposition used in one language is generally NOT the same one used in the other. The fact is that most prepositional phrases and expressions are idiomatic and, therefore, must be memorized, one phrase or expression at a time. **Incynergy Study Guides** on the Spanish preposition 'a' were developed with two audiences in mind. For the Spanish-speaker, these study cards help one to learn the English translation of some of the most common and popular phrases and expressions in Spanish introduced by the preposition 'a'. For the English-speaker, these cards help one to learn some of the most important and popular expressions in Spanish introduced by the preposition 'a'.*

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a	altas horas	very late
a	barba regada	abundantly, in abundance
a	base de	thanks to
a	base de	on the basis of, based on
a	beneficio de	for the benefit of
a	boca de cañón	suddenly, out of the blue
a	boca de jarro	point-blank or at point blank range
a	boca de noche	at dusk, at twilight
a	boca llena	frank, straight from the shoulder, plain-speaking, not mincing words
a	bocado	by the mouthful
a	bordo de	on board
a	brazo partido	in hand-to-hand combat
a	brazo perdido	fearlessly
a	bruces	face down
A	buen entendedor, pocas palabras	A word to the wise is enough or sufficient

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a	buen paso	at a good pace
a	buena hora mangas verdes!	it's no good shutting the stable door once the horse has left or bolted
A	buenas horas!	It's about time!
a	bulto (estimacion a bulto)	broadly / roughly (a rough estimation)
a	callarse!	shut up!
a	casa de_____	to _____'s house, to _____'s
a	caballo	on horseback
a	caballo regalado, no hay que mirarle el diente	Don't look a gift horse in the mouth
A	cada cual lo suyo	to each his own
a	cada instante	at every turn
a	cada paso	at every turn
a	cada paso	every little while, every so often
a	cada rato	every so often
a	cada rato	every little while
a	callarse la boca	to shut one's mouth

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a	cambio de	in exchange, return for
a	campo raso	out in the open
a	campo travieso	across country
a	cárcel	to prison
a	cárcel	to the prison
a	cargas	in abundance
a	cargo de	in charge of
a	carta cabal	completely, one-hundred percent, totally, perfectly
a	casa	at home
a	causa de	because of, on account of
a	centenares	by the hundreds
a	chorros	profusely, in abundance a lot, in profusion
a	ciegas	blindly
a	ciencia cierta	for sure
a	50 dolares (cincuenta) el kilo	at 50 dollars a kilo

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a	color	in color
a	comer!	(name of meal) is ready!
a	comienzos del	at the beginning of
a	comienzos del año	at the beginning of the year
a	comienzos de año (less formal)	at the beginning of the year
a	cómo se vende?	How much does it sell for?
a	compass de algo	to the rhythm or time of something
a	conciencia	conscientiously
a	conciencia de que	fully aware that
a	consecuencia de algo	as a result of something
a	condición de que ...	on the condition that ...
a	consecuencia de	as consequence of
a	continuacion	following
a	continuacion de	following, after
a	contrapelo de	against, counter to
a	costa de	at the expense of

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a	coste y costa	at cost
a	crédito	on credit
a	cuál más ...	each one more (adjective) than the last
a	cualquier hora	at any time of the day, at any hour
a	cuánto estamos?	what's the date?
a	cuánto se vende ...?	How much is ... is being sold for?
a	cuestas	on one's back
a	decir verdad	to tell you the truth
a	dedillo	by heart or by memory
a	derecha	to the right
a	derechas	properly, right, correctly, accurately, appropriately
a	descubierto	out in the open, for all to see, not in hiding
a	deshora	at the wrong time
a	despecho de	notwithstanding, regardless or in spite of, despite

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a	destiempo	at the wrong time
a	diario	daily
a	días	at times
a	diestro y siniestro	right and left
a	diestro y siniestro	wildly and randomly, left, right and center (every where)
a	diferencia de	unlike, in contrast to
a	Dios gracias	thank God
a	Dios rogando y con el mazo dando	Put your faith in gun but keep your powder dry, God or heaven helps those who help themselves
a	disgusto	against one's will or volition
a	distinción de	unlike
a	docenas	by the dozen
a	dormir!	Bedtime! Time for bed!
a	dos cara	double face or double dealing
a	dos dedos de	almost, within a inch or an ace of

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<i>a</i>	dos dedos de	verging on, on the verge or on the brink of, bordering
<i>a</i>	dos pasos	just a stone's throw from
<i>a</i>	dos pesos el kilo	for two pesos a or per kilo
<i>a</i>	duras penas	with great difficulty
<i>a</i>	el temor a la muerte	fear of death
<i>a</i>	ese respecto	on that score
<i>a</i>	escondidas	secretly, surreptitiously, under cover
<i>a</i>	eso de	at about
<i>a</i>	espaldas de uno	behind one's back
<i>a</i>	estas alturas	at this point
<i>a</i>	estas horas	now
<i>a</i>	este paso	at this rate
<i>a</i>	este respecto	with respect to this
<i>a</i>	excepción de	except
<i>a</i>	expensas de	at the expense of
<i>a</i>	falta de	for lack of

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a	favor de	in favor of
a	favor de uno	in one's favor
a	fin de	at the end of
a	fin de cuentas	after all
a	fines de	around or toward the end of
a	finales de(l)	at the end of
a	finales del año	at the end of they year
a	flor de agua	at water level
a	flor de labio	on the tip of one's tongue
a	flor de tierra	at ground level
a	fondo	thoroughly
a	fuego vivo	over a high flame
a	fuego vivo lento	over a low flame
a	fuero	according to law, legally speaking
a	fuerza de	by force of

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a	finales del año	at the end of the year
a	fin de + el infin. del verbo	in order + the infin. of verb
a	fin de que...	so that..., in order that...
a	fondo	thorough, completely
a	galope	at a gallop, without delay, headlong, precipitately
a	galope tendido	at full speed, promptly, full-tilt
a	gatas	on all four
a	grandes rasgos	in broad strokes, in outline, in the big picture
a	granel	in abundance, tons of
a	grito herido	in loud cries
a	gritos	at the top of one's voice
a	guisa de	by the way of
a	gusto	at ease
a	hora fija	at a fixed or set time
a	hora fija	right on time