

PITFALL #9

PREPOSICIONES

Often the compound prepositions and the adverbs from which they are formed are confused. These prepositions would be incomplete and incorrect without *de*, and would instead be adverbs. (If a noun follows, use the *de* front of it!)

Adverb

además
alrededor
antes
cerca
lejos

Prepositions with *de*

además de
alrededor de
antes de
cerca de
lejos de

Incorrect Spanish: cerca el coche
Correct Spanish: cerca del coche

Incorrect Spanish: debajo el árbol
Correct Spanish: debajo del árbol

Incorrect Spanish: dentro la caja
Correct Spanish: dentro de la caja

PITFALL # 5

"en" y "a" meaning "at"

A frequent problem in Spanish expression is the choice of *a* or *en* to mean "at". *A* may mean "at" occasionally (in reference to time, for example) but more frequently *en* is required. *A* more frequently is "to"; *en* is "in, on or at".

Elisa se quedó en casa ayer.
Elisa stayed at home yesterday. (Never *a* except in sense of "to" with verbs of motion).

Elisa fue a casa ayer.
Elisa went home yesterday.

Estudiamos en la Universidad de Missouri.
We study at the University of Missouri. (Never *a* except with verbs of