

# APOSTROPHES & CONTRACTIONS

## HOW TO USE DE

Have a look at the examples below:

the person's address  
la dirección de la persona  
(the address of the person)

el coche de la hija  
the girl's car  
(the car of the girl)

la cuenta de la mujer  
the lady's bill  
(the bill of the lady)

The three examples above are quite simple to understand. Even though you might not have known all the vocabulary, the construction is clear, just say **"the something of the something"** with **"de"** being used for **"of"**. However, if the noun that follows **"of"** is a masculine noun, the word for **"the"** will be **"el"**. The word **"de"** joins forces with **"el"** and they merge into one to become **"del"**. This is called a **"contraction"**.

DE + EL = DEL

So, look at the sentences below:

la dirección del restaurante  
the restaurant's address  
(the address of the restaurant)

la casa del president  
the president's house  
(the house of the president)

el coche del hijo  
the boy's car  
(the car of the boy)

**"DE"** can also mean **"from"** as well as **"of"**

es de Madrid  
it's from Madrid

es del hotel  
it's from the hotel

## THE SAXON GENITIVE

The Saxon Genitive is the proper name for the **"apostrophe s"** in English, which we use to show to whom something belongs. In Spanish, however, the apostrophe **s** doesn't exist so you have to use another way of showing belonging. In Spanish, you use the word **"de"**, which means **"of"**.

So, instead of saying **"María's address"**, you have to say **"the address of María"** - **"La dirección de María"**. There are a couple more examples on the next page:



## THE SAXON GENITIVE EXAMPLES

Pedro's house  
la casa de Pedro  
(the house of Pedro)

María's car  
el coche de María  
(the car of María)

María's address  
la dirección de María  
(the address of María)

The contractions don't happen with feminine or plural nouns, only with masculine nouns.

to the beach  
a la playa

at the beach  
a la playa

to the shops  
a las tiendas

at the restaurant  
a los restaurantes

## MORE CONTRACTIONS IN SPANISH

Similar to the "de" contractions, there is also contraction "a" that takes place with the Spanish word "a" meaning "to" or "at". If you want to say "to the" or "at the" with a masculine noun, the following contraction takes place in Spanish:

A + EL = AL

to the restaurant  
al restaurante

at the restaurant  
al restaurante

to the hotel  
al hotel

at the hotel  
al hotel

This is the same with the "del" contraction; it only happens with masculine singular nouns, not with feminine or plural nouns.

### CONTRACTION KEY

de + el = del (of the / from the)

a + el = al (to the / at the)