

Contraction of de el

(Beginning Spanish)

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Del is the contraction of "**de el**", meaning "of the; from the". Following are some useful rules.

1. When de is followed by el, the two words are combined into del:
la capital **del** país (the capital of the country)
la oficina **del** director (the office of the director)
2. **De la, de las, de los, de él** are never combined into one word:
el puerto principal **de la** república (the principal port of the republic)
el país **de las** pampas
la capital **de los** Estados Unidos (the capital of the United States)
el libro **de él** (*his* book)
3. When de is followed by a proper name there is no contraction:
Tengo el libro **de** Felipe. (I have a book of Felipe.)

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