**Spanish Contractions**

English has quite a lot of contractions, e.g. can’t, we’ll, you’d, they’re, and you’ve. Spanish, however, has only two – **al** and **del.**

When the prepositions

**a**

(to)

or

**de**

(of or from)

come before the definite article

**el**

they combine with it to form a contraction.

Word Maths:

**a** + **el** =

**al**

**Example:** El colegio > Voy al colegio en autobús (I go to school by bus)

**de** + **el** =

**del**

**Example:** El año > Los meses del año (The months of the year)

More on **al** –an exception to the rule:

If **el** is a capitalized part of a name, it does not contract to **al** when used with **a**, e.g.

Voy a El Salvador (I am going to El Salvador).

More on **de**l – an exception to the rule:

If **el** is a capitalized part of a name, it does not contract to **del** when used with **de**, e.g.

Soy de El Salvador (I am from El Salvador).