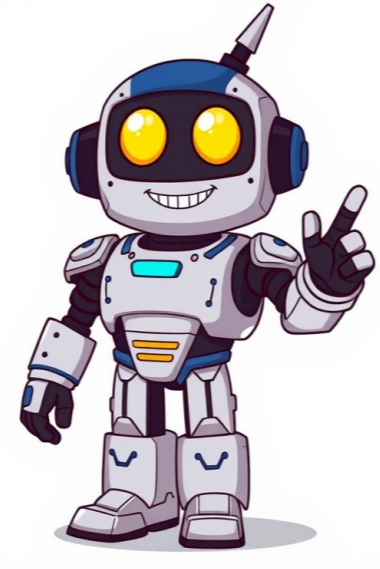


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I was at a friend's funeral. Both of them sound natural. I think "for" is more common. Not a native speaker here. My guess is that both are correct. funeral of a friend = a friend's funeral funeral for a friend = a funeral held for a friend who has deceased The concept of "funeral" can be somewhat ambiguous, as explained by @Mr.Dent and others, such as @Aguas Claras and @Kaoss. In everyday conversations, people often use different terms to describe the same event, depending on their surroundings. I will add that nowadays, a memorial service (not always referred to as a funeral) may be held even weeks after the burial or cremation. For me, the term "funeral" typically means entierro (or sepelio), which is the act of burying someone in a cemetery or placing their ashes in an urn. On the other hand, "velorio" refers to a wake, where people gather to pay their respects and condolences to the family of the deceased. A velatorio is essentially a vigil for the deceased. In my environment, the terms "funeral", "entierro", and "sepelio" are often used interchangeably, although they have slightly different connotations. In formal settings, such as newspapers or official documents, these terms may be employed to describe the event. However, in everyday conversations, people tend to use more colloquial expressions like "velorio" and "entierro". The concept of sepelio is similar to funeral, but it typically implies a more formal or ritualistic ceremony. Sepelio also encompasses the act of placing the deceased's ashes in a tombstone or monument. A novenario (9 days of prayer) or triduo de misas (3 masses on consecutive days) are observed after a person's passing, usually by Catholic families. However, these traditions can also be performed for the deceased regardless of their faith status. The family typically organizes the observance to help the soul of the loved one find peace and forgiveness. During this period, people often recite the rosary or attend special masses as a way to pray for the person's soul. This ritual is considered an important part of many cultures and is seen as a means to provide comfort to family members. While not exclusive to Catholicism, novenas have become popular in various faith communities worldwide. Many families participate in these observances even when the deceased was not a practicing member of their religion. The concept is that prayer and good deeds can help guide the person's soul towards a higher plane of existence. Once the novena is completed, family members believe they will receive some form of assistance to ensure the loved one finds peace. It is worth noting that different communities may have varying interpretations and customs surrounding these rituals. Some claim that attending special masses, like Gregorian masses, can provide a direct route to salvation. Others find solace in participating in novenas for specific needs or saints. It's called a repast in AE, but unfortunately, it doesn't translate as agape, which connotes joy and happiness. This tradition isn't common in Spanish-speaking countries, maybe I was mistaken. Edit: I found several examples online - "agape funerario". It seems that this use of the word "repast" started recently, especially in different US regions. In my hometown in the South, it wasn't usual to have a meal at the deceased's home after the funeral; instead, food was brought to them so they wouldn't cook for a few days. I don't recall hearing an exact term for this custom - people would either bring food or attend a reception. Saludos... The gathering after a funeral is simply called a reception in English. Even less formally, it's referred to as a gathering. A repast can also mean the meal itself - I like that word! Some people use "50-cent" words, and I had to post here because I loved discussing this topic. I didn't realize how varied the custom was across the US. On the West Coast, having food at the family's home after a funeral is very common; it would be called a reception or gathering - not a wake. I never knew it wasn't that way everywhere else. Just to clarify, in my experience, a wake takes place before the funeral and burial; it wouldn't be used to describe a post-funeral reception. The wake seems more like a viewing or visitation at the funeral home beforehand. It's essential to use "wake" correctly - if someone refers to a gathering as a wake when it's not, that would be incorrect. My family still uses the term "wake," although I've heard "visitation" or "viewing" more often now. In an old sense, it was called "calling hours." Hello everyone! The meaning of "removal" is important - it usually refers to taking the body away from where they died and preparing it for burial or cremation. Hola, I think "removal" means transporting the body to the funeral home, while "viewing" refers to when the body remains uncovered in church. Does that make sense? Mmm... well, maybe this is specific to Ireland - I'm attending a removal tomorrow and might be wrong about the meaning! Perhaps they call it "removal" while in the States it's "viewing." You are absolutely right - in Ireland, the "removal" (or "viewing") is when you see the body before the funeral. This ceremony often takes place in the funeral home; then the coffin is closed and taken to church for a short service. The coffin might remain overnight, followed by a small service and burial. After that, there's usually a wake - a celebration of their life with food and drink. The difference between a graveside service and a graveside committal lies in their purpose and execution. A graveside service involves a religious rite and can be held at the gravesite, whereas a graveside committal is a shorter ceremony where a few words are spoken over the coffin before it's placed in the ground. In a Roman Catholic funeral, there's often a Mass at church followed by a car procession to the cemetery, with a smaller service taking place at the gravesite. The casket isn't covered in dirt until after the family has left, creating a sense of distinction between the two services. Sometimes, everything takes place at the gravesite, making it seem seamless. However, some funerals hold the ceremony indoors due to inclement weather or other reasons, making the transition from service to committal less noticeable. The terminology "graveside" versus "gravesite" can also be confusing. Gravesite is generally used as a noun for the actual burial site, while graveside can refer to the area next to the grave where the committal takes place. It's worth noting that both words have multiple functions and usage. In the US, gravesite is more commonly used, whereas in other regions or contexts, such as funeral planning discussions, "graveside" might be preferred. Ultimately, it's about context and what feels most respectful for the deceased and their family. The concept of gravesite and graveside is distinct in various contexts, particularly in linguistics and funeral traditions. The British National Corpus refers to Arlington as a single gravesite, while the Corpus of Contemporary American English lists 159 gravesites, indicating a possible difference between AE/BE in terminology. Interestingly, a man planning his wife's funeral used the term "graveside," sparking curiosity about the differences between funeral and burial practices. The traditional after-funeral meal is often referred to as a reception, although some cultures, like Russians, do not have a specific name for it. In the UK, receptions are typically informal affairs where guests mingle over tea and sandwiches or buffet-style food. The reception may be held at the deceased's home, family member's house, or a hotel/pub. The terms "funeral" and "entierro" (or "burial") can sometimes be confused due to their shared meanings. However, funeral typically refers to the ceremony that takes place after burial, while entierro is the act of burying the deceased. Funeral may also encompass the wake or viewing before the service, whereas entierro usually occurs within 24 hours after death. In a cultural context, funerals can be annual events like solemnity celebrations, whereas burials are typically one-time events. When someone passes away in Spain or South America, their body is often transported to a cemetery (tanatorio) for viewing and eventually burial. Normalmente, cuando alguien muere en casa, su familia lo vela durante toda la noche, y el día siguiente generalmente se lleva a la iglesia para el entierro. Sin embargo, también puede llevarse al crematorio y las cenizas ser entregadas a la familia. Gracias por todas las respuestas, pero creo que hay ciertas confusiones. Un funeral se podría celebrar cada año como una solemnidad religiosa, pero el entierro debería ocurrir solo una vez. Me gustaría saber qué pasa cuando alguien muere en casa: ¿se traslada al cementerio de inmediato o se tiene que pasar un tiempo por la iglesia antes del entierro? En mi experiencia, cuando alguien fallecía en casa, se lo velaba durante todo el día siguiente y luego se llevaba a la iglesia para el entierro. Sin embargo, en las ciudades, casi nadie lo hace; se traslada al tanatorio donde se vela y se recibe a las personas que van a dar el pésame, y de allí se lleva al cementerio. En el tanatorio o antes del entierro en el cementerio se suele celebrar una misa de corpore insepulto, pero eso no es lo mismo que un funeral. El funeral es la misa que se celebra a los pocos días del fallecimiento y puede repetirse cada año como una solemnidad religiosa. En mi casa, le pedimos al cura que celebre una misa en el aniversario de la muerte de algún familiar, pero no lo llamamos funeral, sino misa de aniversario. La celebración de una muerte en un barrio urbano con alta concentración de personas de menores recursos, quienes provienen de provincias más alejadas. Existen varias formas diferentes de realizar estos ritos, pero todos utilizamos las mismas palabras. Creo que esa es parte de la confusión. Mi experiencia es similar a la de Alma, quien también es de mi país, pero de regiones muy diferentes. En este tipo de ceremonias, se lleva a cabo en una funeraria o velatorio. Algunos individuos velan a su muerto/a en su casa, lo cual no es común. Sin embargo, el funeral implica (en las regiones del noroeste de México) todo el proceso desde que una persona fallece hasta su entierro. Cuando alguien dice que va a un funeral, se refiere a ir a la funeraria o a la iglesia para la misa de despedida o de cuerpo presente, o también al panteón o cementerio para enterrar a la persona muerta/fallecida. En cambio, lo que se celebra es el aniversario luctuoso del fallecido, que tiene un año de muerto/a y se puede celebrar de muchas maneras, como visitar la tumba (si se le enterró) o con misas (si la persona era católica). El entierro en sí es cuando se mete el féretro o caja con el muerto/a en donde va a quedar y ya sea se entierra o se cierra, porque algunos ya no son entierros. Algunos tienen mausóleos o casas desde pequeñas hasta tipo mansiones para los muertos de la familia.

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