

Vocabulary – Wait, Hope, Expect (“Esperar”)

1) **wait (for) someone or something** – **time before a future event**

2) **expect something will happen**
or expect someone will do something – **a probable future event**

3) **hope (that) something will happen**
or hope (that) someone will do something – **a desire for a future event**

The three verbs “to wait”, “to expect” and “to hope” (all regular verbs) all mean “esperar”, but are used in different contexts.

1) **“Wait”** refers to the interval of time before a specific event or action.

Wait for me, please.	<i>Espera por mim, por favor.</i>
I'm waiting for the bus.	<i>Estou à espera do ônibus.</i>
We are waiting for the rain to stop.	<i>Estamos à espera que pare de chover.</i>
Wait!	<i>Espera!</i>

The noun is **“wait”**, too. For example: It **was a long wait** before the bus arrived.

2) **“Hope”** shows a desire that something will happen or happened.

I hope to see you again soon.	<i>Espero voltar a te ver em breve.</i>
I hope so.	<i>Espero que sim.</i>
I hope that she improves.	<i>Espero que ela melhore.</i>
He hopes to be an engineer.	<i>Ele espera ser engenheiro.</i>
I hope that the bus doesn't take a long time.	<i>Espero que o ônibus não demore.</i>
I hope that he didn't misunderstand.	<i>Espero que ele não tenha entendido mal.</i>

The noun is **“hope”**, too. For example: I **had many hopes** that you would be a doctor.

3) **“Expect”** expresses confidence that something will probably happen. It is similar to the verb “to believe”.

I expect so. / I believe so.	<i>Eu imagino que sim. / Acredito que sim.</i>
There was more traffic than I expected.	<i>Havia mais trânsito do que eu esperava.</i>
I expected more from you.	<i>Esperava mais de você.</i>

We can also use the structure: **expect + pronoun + infinitive**

My mother expects me to clean my room.	<i>Minha mãe espera que eu limpe meu quarto.</i>
I expected you to arrive early.	<i>Eu esperava que você chegasse cedo.</i>

If a woman is pregnant, we also say “to expect”:

She's expecting a baby.	<i>Ela espera um bebê.</i>
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The noun is **“expectation”**. For example: I **had high expectations** of my son.

Hope for the best, but expect the worst!

I hope that you don't expect me to wait!

Exercise: Fill in the blanks using “hope”, “wait” or “expect”, conjugating as necessary.

1. We just have to _____ and see what happens.
2. I haven't heard from Peter for ages. I _____ he's OK.
3. I get very irritated when people make me _____ .
4. I had to _____ for the train for more than an hour.
5. I _____ the film to be great, but it was really bad.
6. He _____ his team will win the game but he _____ the other team will win.
7. If you _____ me to wear a tie, I won't go!
8. You're a liar, and I _____ that I never see you again!
9. The financial market _____ a crash in house prices in the middle of next year.
10. My parents _____ me to be like my father, but I don't want to be an accountant.