**Notes: Contractions**

The word **de**  means **of/from**. It is used with several prepositions of direction.

When the word ‘de’ is used in front of a noun along with a definite article, a change may occur.

de + el = del --------- change

de + la = de la

de + los = de los --------- no changes

de + las = de las

The word **a** means **to/at**.

When the word ‘a’ is used in front of a noun along with a definite article, a change may occur.

a + el = al --------- change

a + la = a la

a + los = a los --------- no changes

a + las = a las

Examples:

The poster is beside the flag.

* El cartel está al lado **de la** bandera.

The poster is beside the windows.

* El cartel está al lado de las ventanas

The clock is beside the posters.

* El reloj está al lado **de los** carteles

The clock is beside the poster.

* El reloj está al lado **del** cartel

The screen is behind the keyboard.

la pantalla está detrás del teclado

He likes to go to the gym.

él le gusta ir al gimnasio.