



Personal Proficiency Trainer

Winter Series
February 2009 Edition

Complete Transcript
with Full Translation

February Edition - ¡Feliz Día del Amor y la Amistad!

Hello and welcome back to another exciting month of the PPT. How are your Spanish studies going? I hope the Personal Proficiency Trainer is as enjoyable for you to study as it is for us to make. We are constantly searching for ways to make your experience better and for conversations that will be useful for everyone.

One of my favorite parts about the PPT is that it is the perfect study-tool for anyone at any level. If you are just starting out, listening to real Spanish speakers speaking real Spanish is the best way I can imagine to bridge the gap between book study and real understanding. Don't give up! You can do it!

If you have already studied Spanish, the PPT gives you a unique opportunity to analyze real conversations in depth. The PPT provides the only way to learn the subtle nuances of a language--by listening to native speakers.

¡Bienvenido a la edición de Febrero! Welcome to February's edition! This month our beginning and intermediate conversations will feature a speaker from Argentina for the first time. The Argentine accent is one of the most beautiful and seems to flow smoothly, almost like music. See if you can hear the differences for yourself. The rest of our conversations continue to feature couples from different parts of Mexico.

Our beginning conversations this month focus on survival and travel situations that you might encounter anywhere in the world. Learn how to open up a checking account at a bank, conduct a job interview, and talk to a mechanic about your car problems. In our travel feature, we will learn how to rent a car.

One of the most important things that we hope the PPT will do for you is build your confidence. Be brave! Go out on a limb and start a conversation with a Spanish speaker. The best way to learn is by doing. Our advanced scenarios this month will show us typical conversations that you might have with a co-worker about learning Spanish or with a new neighbor to welcome him/her to the area. Give it a try. ¡Sí se puede! (You can do it!)

CONVERSATIONS:

~BEGINNING~

Rentar un Carro (Renting a Car)

Speakers: César from Mexico and Claudia from Mendoza, Argentina

Whenever we travel, one thing we can't do without is transportation. Do you try to use public transit systems like subways, busses, and taxis when you travel? Or are you more like me, enjoying the convenience (along with the parking problems) of a rental car? Either way, let's learn how to get just the right car we want for just the right price.

LANGUAGE TIP: Here's a useful phrase that you will use constantly: "Aquí tiene" (here you have). And why is that so useful you ask? Because in Spanish, when handing someone something, instead of saying "here you go", you say "here you have". So to say "Here's the money", instead of saying "Aquí está el dinero", you would say "Aquí tiene el dinero". So "aquí tiene su tarea" (here is your homework), try to use this phrase at least once today!

Viajera	Hola, aquí es dónde se rentan los carros, ¿verdad?
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Hello, here is where you rent cars, right?

Empleado	Así es. ¿En qué puedo servirle?
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That's right. How can I help you?

Viajera	Quiero rentar un carro.
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I want to rent a car.

Empleado	Muy bien. Tenemos varios modelos, ¿qué tipo de carro le gustaría?
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Alright. We have several models, what type of car would you like?

Viajera	Algo chico y económico, por favor.
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Something small and economic, please.

Empleado	¿Qué tal un Honda Accord, está bien?
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How about a Honda Accord, is that alright?

Viajera	Sí, está bien. ¿Cuánto es por día?
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Yes, that's fine. How much is it per day?

Empleado	Cobramos por día y también hay un cargo adicional por kilómetro.
----------	--

We charge by day and also there is an additional charge per kilometer.

Viajera	¿Cuánto es en total entonces?
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How much is it in total then?

Empleado	El Accord cuesta treinta y nueve dólares por día más diez y siete centavos por kilómetro. ¿Por cuánto tiempo va a necesitar el carro?
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The Accord costs thirty nine dollars per day plus seventeen cents per kilometer. For how long are you going to need the car?

Viajera	Y...Yo necesito un carro por los siguientes nueve días.
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And...I need a car for the next nine days.

Empleado	Tiene suerte, tenemos una oferta de mitad de precio si paga por más de una semana.
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You're in luck, we have a half-price offer if you pay for more than one week

Viajera	Excelente, me parece muy bien.
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Excellent, that sounds great.

Empleado	Bueno, son tres cientos setenta y cuatro con cincuenta y siete centavos. También hay un depósito de dos cientos dólares que le devolveremos al regresar. Entonces en total son quinientos setenta y cuatro con cincuenta y siete centavos.
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Alright, it's three hundred seventy four and fifty seven cents. Also there is a deposit of two hundred dollars that we will return to you when you come back. So in total it's five hundred seventy four and fifty seven cents.

Viajera	Y ¿Aceptan Visa?
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And do you accept Visa?

Empleado	Sí, aceptamos efectivo, crédito, y cheques de viajero.
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Yes, we accept cash, credit, and travelers checks.

Viajera	Aquí tiene.
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Here you go (Here you have).

Empleado	Gracias. Aquí tiene su recibo. Ahora si por favor puede leer y firmar este contrato, yo voy por su auto.
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Thank you. Here is your receipt. Now if you can please read and sign this contract, I'll go get your car.

Viajera	¿En dónde lo firmo?
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Where do I sign it?

Empleado	Allí atrás abajo de donde dice "firma" y "fecha"
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There on the back below where it says "signature" and "date"

Viajera	¿Aquí?
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Here?

Empleado	Así es. Allí mismo.
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That's right. Right there.

Viajera	Bueno. Y cuando regreso para dejar el carro, ¿a qué hora tengo que estar aquí? ¿A qué hora cierran?
---------	--

Alright. And when I come back to drop off the car, what time do I have to be here? What time do you close?

Empleado	De hecho nuestro negocio está abierto las veinticuatro horas al día.
----------	--

Actually our business is open twenty four hours a day.

Viajera	Oh que bien, porque creo que mi vuelo sale muy noche.
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Oh good, because I think that my flight leaves very late at night

Empleado	Muy bien. Aquí tiene la llave. Puede recoger su carro en frente en el estacionamiento número dos. Es el auto verde. Gracias por su preferencia y ¡qué tenga buen viaje!
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Alright. Here is the key. You can pick up your car out front in the parking space number two. It's the green car. Thank you for your business (preference) and have a nice trip!

Viajera	Una pregunta, ¿es ese que está al lado del árbol?
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One question, is it that one that is beside the tree?

Empleado	Exactamente, ese es.
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Exactly, that's it.

Viajera	Oh, Muchas gracias. Hasta luego.
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Oh, Thank you very much. See you later.

Empleado	Hasta luego.
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See you later.

Entrevista de Trabajo (Job Interview)

Speakers: César from Mexico and Claudia from Argentina

Do you get nervous for job interviews? Whatever field of work you are in, it is important to present yourself smoothly and confidently. This is hard enough in English; do you think you could do it in Spanish? Listen to Natalia. How do you think she does in her interview? Would you hire her if you were the boss? They ask a lot of the same common questions in Spanish interviews as they do in English. How would you have answered the questions? Ready or not, it's time for your "entrevista."

LANGUAGE TIP: This conversation has a good example of a phrase that might seem incorrect at first: "si gusta pasar a mi oficina" meaning "if you would like to step into my office". As you learn in our beginning course, the correct way to use the verb "gustar" is with a pronoun before that refers to the person (le, te = you, les = you (plural) or they, etc.), so it should be "si le gusta" which literally means "if to you it pleases". Many Spanish speaking countries leave off the pronoun; this is especially common in Mexico and the U.S. So next time you want to ask someone if they would like a glass of water, you can simply say "¿gusta un vaso de agua?" Be careful though, this slang phrase only works with "you"; you could never say "gustamos un vaso de agua" (wrong!). With "he, she, they, we, or I like", always use the pronoun. So "nos gustaría un vaso de agua" (correct!).

Martín	Buenas tardes, ¿es Ud. Natalia?
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Good afternoon, are you Natalie?

Natalia	Sí Natalia Rojas Alvarado, para servirle.
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Yes Natalie Rojas Alvarado, at your service.

Martín	Mucho gusto Natalia, yo soy Martín Romero, soy el director de recursos humanos aquí. Ayer hablamos por teléfono.
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Nice to meet you Natalie, I'm Martin Romero, I'm the human resources director here. We spoke yesterday by phone.

Natalia	Sí. Me da mucho gusto conocerle en persona Señor Romero. Y le tengo que pedir perdón por haber llegado un poco tarde.
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Yes. It is nice to meet you in person Mr. Romero. And I have to apologize for having arrived a bit late.

Martín	Ah, no se preocupe--a veces es difícil encontrar este edificio por primera vez. Bueno, si gusta pasar a mi oficina, empezaremos la entrevista. Aquí, tome asiento, por favor.
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Ah, don't worry-- sometimes it's hard to find this building for the first time. Ok, if you would like to step into my office, we'll start the interview. Here, take a seat, please.

Natalia	Oh muchas gracias.
---------	--------------------

Oh thank you.

Martín	Pues para empezar, cuénteme un poco de Ud. y porque le interesa este puesto.
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Well to get started, tell me a little about yourself. and why you're interested in this position.

Natalia	Bueno, yo soy una persona muy amistosa y amable. Soy una persona muy social y me encanta tratar con gente. Por eso me gustaría mucho ser una recepcionista.
---------	---

Alright, I am a very friendly and kind person. I am very social person and I love dealing with people. That's why I would very much like to be a receptionist.

Martín	Dice en su currículum que el español es su idioma natal. Para este puesto, es muy importante ser bilingüe porque tenemos clientes que hablan español y otros que solo hablan inglés. ¿Cuánta experiencia ha tenido Ud. con el inglés?
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It says on your resume that Spanish is your native language. For this position, it's very important to be bilingual because we have customers that speak Spanish and others that only speak English. How much experience have you had with English?

Natalia	Bueno, yo soy de Argentina, entonces con mi familia siempre hablo español. Pero también vivimos aquí desde hace diez años entonces en la escuela y con los amigos siempre hablo inglés.
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Well, I am from Argentina, so with my family I always speak Spanish. But we have lived here for ten years so in school and with friends I always speak English.

Martín	¿Lo habla muy bien entonces?
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You speak it very well then?

Natalia	Sí. Me siento bien hablando en inglés. También hablo un poco de francés.
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Yes. I am comfortable (I feel good) speaking in English. I also speak a little French.

Martín	Impresionante. Y dígame, ¿cuántos años tiene Ud.?
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Impressive. So tell me, how old are you?

Natalia	Yo tengo veintidós años.
	I am twenty two.
Martín	¿Y piensa seguir estudiando?
	And do you plan to continue studying?
Natalia	Pues la verdad, por ahora quisiera trabajar tiempo completo, pero tal vez en el futuro sí regresaría a estudiar.
	Well honestly, for now I would like to work full-time, but perhaps in the future I would go back to study.
Martín	Muy bien. Y si le contratamos, ¿cuánto tiempo espera permanecer con nosotros?
	Alright. And if we hired you, how long do you expect to stay with us
Natalia	Bueno, yo creo que voy a vivir aquí por los próximos dos o tres años por lo menos. Entonces sí estoy buscando algo permanente.
	Well, I think that I'm going to live here for the next two or three years at least. So yes, I am looking for something permanent.
Martín	Excelente. Y dígame, ¿cuál cree que es una de sus mayores cualidades?
	Excellent. And tell me, what do you think is one of your biggest strengths (greatest qualities).
Natalia	Me gusta trabajar y soy responsable. Y también siempre cumplo con mis deberes.
	I like to work and I am responsible. And also I always fulfill my duties.
Martín	Bueno, una pregunta un poco más difícil: ¿Cuál cree que es uno de sus defectos?
	Alright, a slightly more difficult question: What do you think is one of your weaknesses (defects)
Natalia	Sí es una pregunta difícil, ehm, pues soy perfeccionista y a veces me enfoco demasiado en los detalles; pero he aprendido tomar en cuenta mis otras responsabilidades también.
	Yes that is a difficult question, um. Well I am a perfectionist and sometimes I focus too much on the details; but I have learned to take into account my other responsibilities as well.

Martín ¿Prefiere trabajar en equipo o individualmente? Y también dígame por qué.

Do you prefer to work in a team or individually? And also tell me why.

Natalia La verdad, Me gusta trabajar individualmente si es necesario, pero me encanta trabajar en equipo porque creo que podemos lograr más si trabajamos unidos.

honestly, I like to work individually if it is necessary, but I love to work in a team because I think that we can achieve more if we work together.

Martín Muy bien. ¿Tiene alguna pregunta para nosotros?

Good. Do you have any questions for us?

Natalia Sí, ¿cuando puedo empezar?

Yes, when can I start?

Martín Aha, pues tenemos algunas entrevistas más, pero le hablaremos dentro de algunos días para avisarle.

Aha, well we have a few more interviews, but we will call you within a few days to let you know.

Natalia Excelente, muchas gracias Señor Romero; espero verle de nuevo muy pronto.

Great, thank you so much Mr. Romero; I hope to see you again very soon.

~INTERMEDIATE~

El Mecánico (The Mechanic)

Speakers: César from Mexico and Claudia from Argentina

If there is one thing you can rely on about your car, it's that it will eventually need to be fixed (or is that only with my cars?). Do you think you could describe to a mechanic what is wrong with your car in Spanish? Let's give it a try.

LANGUAGE TIP: All of this month's beginning conversations feature one speaker from Mexico and one from Argentina. I hope that this side-by-side comparison has helped you to notice the difference in their accents. More importantly, however, I hope it has helped you see how similar they are. The bottom line is that whether you learn to speak Spanish from Argentina, Mexico, or Spain it is the same language and you will be perfectly understood anywhere you go in the world. Personally, the Argentine accent is one of my favorites. The intonation has patterns similar to Italian and is very musical and flowing. Have you noticed the sing-song qualities in the beginning conversations? One of the most marked differences is the pronunciation of the "ll". In standard Spanish, it is pronounced like the "y" in "you". In most parts of Argentina they pronounce the "ll" as a "sha" or "j" sound like in "asian". So instead of "lluvia" (rain), they would say "shuvia". Listen in this conversation when she says the word "llamar" to see if you can hear the "sha" sound.

Señora	Buenos días Señor. ¿Es Ud. el mecánico?
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Good morning Sir. Are you the mechanic?

Mecánico	Sí, buenos días. ¿En qué puedo ayudarle?
----------	--

Yes, good morning. How can I help you?

Señora	Bueno, tengo un problema con mi auto.
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Well, I have a problem with my car.

Mecánico	Dígame, ¿que le pasa a su auto?
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Tell me, what is wrong with your car?

Señora	Ehm, cuando empiezo a manejarlo, al principio, está bien, pero después empieza a calentarse.
--------	--

Um, when I start to drive it, at first, it is fine, but then it starts to heat up.

Mecánico	Y ¿se calienta mucho? ¿Como cuánto más o menos?
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And does it heat up a lot? About how much more or less?

Señora	Eh, Cuando si manejo una distancia larga, empieza a salir humo.
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Uh, when I drive a long ways, smoke starts coming out.

Mecánico	Ah, yo creo que eso es mucho. Y dígame ¿hay alguna otra cosa que el carro hace?
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Ah, I think that that is a lot. And tell me is there anything else that the car is doing?

Señora	Ehm, empieza hacer, cuando se calienta el motor, empieza hacer un ruido extraño.
--------	--

Um, it starts to make, when the motor gets hot, it starts to make a strange noise.

Mecánico	Bueno, creo que ese ruido puede ser causado por la alta temperatura y lo primero que tengo que hacer es revisarlo.
----------	--

Well, I think that that noise can be caused by the high temperature and the first thing that I have to do is check it over.

Señora	Y dígame entonces Ud., ¿sabe de que se trata el que se calienta el auto?
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And tell me then, do you know what it is about that the car is heating up?

Mecánico	Lo primero que tengo que revisar es el radiador, y después podría darle una...un informe más detallado.
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The first thing that I have to check is the radiator, and then I could give you a... a more detailed report.

Señora	Bueno y más o menos ¿cuánto me va a costar?
--------	---

Alright and about how much is it going to cost me?

Mecánico	Bueno, sin revisar el auto es difícil darle un presupuesto. Primero lo voy a revisar y después le aviso cuanto le cuesta.
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Well, without examining the car it's difficult to give you an estimate. First I'll take a look at it and then I'll let you know how much it will cost you.

Señora	Entonces ¿puedo llamarlo esta tarde mismo?
--------	--

So can I call you this very afternoon?

Mecánico	Y claro que sí, estoy seguro...
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And of course, I'm sure...

Señora	Bueno, le voy a pedir un favor. Eh, ¿me prestaría por favor su teléfono para llamar a mi esposo?
--------	--

Great, I'm going to ask you a favor. Uh, could you lend me your telephone please to call my husband?

Mecánico	Claro que sí. El teléfono está en esa oficina a su izquierda. Pase con confianza.
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Of course. The phone is in that office on your left. Go right in.

Señora	Oh, muchas gracias. Hasta luego
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Oh, thank you. See you later.

Mecánico	Hasta luego. Gracias a Ud.
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See you later. Thanks to you.

El Banco (The Bank)

Speakers: César from Mexico and Claudia from Argentina

Although you may or may not have complete faith in our banks in the current economic downturn, we still need a safe and efficient way to manage our finances. Let's take a trip to the bank and learn how to open a checking account in Spanish.

LANGUAGE TIP: Let's look at a phrase that comes up several times in the conversation. When the banker asks to see Fabiana's IDs he says, "si me permite las dos identificaciones" which literally means "if you permit me the two IDs". This might sound a little odd in English, but in Spanish it is commonly used as a polite way to ask someone to hand you something or let you see something. Listen for the other phrases in the conversation with the word "permitir".

Empleado	Buenos días. ¿En qué puedo ayudarle Señora?
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Good morning. How can I help you, ma'am.

Fabiana	Buenos días. Sí, quisiera saber que necesito para abrir una cuenta de cheques.
---------	--

Good morning. Yes, I would like to know what I need to open a checking account.

Empleado	Muy bien. Necesita dos identificaciones y llenar una solicitud. ¿Quiere abrir una cuenta de cheques ahora mismo?
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Great. You need two IDs and to fill out an application. Do you want to open a checking account right now?

Fabiana	Sí, por supuesto.
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Yes, of course

Empleado	Por favor, siéntese aquí en mi escritorio; y aquí tiene una solicitud. Por favor llene su nombre, su domicilio, sus datos personales y firme aquí donde está la "x".
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Please have a seat here at my desk; and here is (you have) an application Please fill in your name, your residence, your personal information and sign here where the "x" is.

Fabiana	Sí, como no. Aparte de esta solicitud, ¿necesito algo más?
---------	--

Yes, of course. Besides this application, do I need anything else (something more)?

Empleado	Eh, por el momento es todo, si me la permite y me permite las dos identificaciones voy a foto...a fotocopiarlas. Y ya mismo empiezo habilitar su cuenta.
----------	--

Um, for the moment that's everything, if you let me have it (the application) and let me have the two IDs I'll go photo...photocopy them. And right away I'll start to authorize your account.

Fabiana	Oh muchas gracias.
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Oh thank you.

Empleado	Muy bien. Aquí tengo todo listo. Eh, ¿necesita Ud. una cuenta de débito?
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Alright. Here I have everything ready. Um, do you need a debit account?

Fabiana	Sí por favor.
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Yes please.

Empleado	Excelente. Voy a habilitar una cuenta de débito y ¿va a depositar algo el día de hoy?
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Great. I'll authorize a debit account and are you going to deposit anything today? (the day of)

Fabiana	Sí, en realidad ehm, traje mi primer cheque que me entregaron en mi trabajo y justamente por eso abro la cuenta de cheques para poder cambiar mi cheque cada mez.
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Yes, actually uh, I brought my first check that they gave me at my work and that's exactly why (precisely for that) I am opening up the checking account to be able to cash my check each month.

Empleado	Muy bien. Permítame el cheque. ¿Podría firmarlo en la parte de atrás por favor?
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Alright. Let me have the check. Could you sign it on the back please?

Fabiana	Sí. Claro que sí.
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Yes. Of course.

Empleado	Excelente. Déme un par de minutos y ya estoy de regreso con su recibo.
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Great. Give me a pair of minutes and I'll be right back with your receipt

Fabiana	Cómo no.
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Of course.

Empleado	Señora Fabiana. Aquí tiene el recibo por su depósito. Y además aquí tiene un...una chequera temporal para que pueda Ud. hacer cheques.
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Mrs. Fabiana Here is the receipt for your deposit. And in addition here is a... a temporary checkbook so that you can write (make) checks.

Empleado	Su tarjeta de débito le estará llegando más o menos en siete días.
----------	--

Your debit card will be arriving in about seven days

Fabiana	Oh muy bien eso es lo que... justamente lo que necesitaba.
---------	--

Oh good that is what... exactly what I needed.

Empleado	Excelente. Dígame una cosa.Podemos arreglar para que su cheque sea depositado cada mes en la cuenta y Ud. no tiene que venir al banco para depositar su cheque cada vez.
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Great. Tell me one thing. We can set it up so that your check is deposited each month in the account and you don't have to come to the bank to deposit your check each time.

Fabiana	Oh, grandioso.
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Oh fabulous.

Empleado	Muy bien. Aquí tiene una forma que debe entregar en su departamento de recursos humanos y ellos sabrán lo que tienen que hacer. Así que el próximo cheque será depositado automáticamente en su cuenta.
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Alright. Here is a form that you should submit in your human resources department and they will know what they have to do. So the next check will be deposited automatically in your account.

Fabiana	Oh, me parece muy bien.
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Oh, that sounds good.

Empleado	Excelente. Así no vendrá cada vez a depositar su cheque.
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Great. So you won't come every time to deposit your check

Fabiana	Oh le agradezco muchísimo por su tiempo y por ser tan amable. Muchas gracias.
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Oh, I really appreciate you for your time and for being so kind. Thank you very much.

Empleado	Bueno, muchas gracias a Ud. por abrir su cuenta con nosotros. Aquí tiene mi tarjeta para que si tiene cualquier preguntas, puede llamarme.
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Well, thank you for opening your account with us. Here is my card so that if you have any questions, you can call me.

Fabiana	Ah muy bien. Muchas gracias otra vez y que tenga muy buen día.
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Ah good. Thank you again and have a very nice day.

Empleado	Gracias Señora Fabiana. Hasta Luego.
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Thank you Mrs. Fabiana. See you later.

Fabiana	Hasta Luego.
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See you later.

~ADVANCED~

El Vecino Nuevo (New Neighbor)

Speakers: Jorge and Luz from Mexico

What kind of neighborhood do you live in? Do you chat a lot with your neighbors or does everyone keep pretty much to themselves? I am from a small town where everyone knows each other, so it is a big deal when new neighbors move in; we all go out to welcome them to the area. Let's go out of our way to welcome our new neighbor Felipe.

LANGUAGE TIP: I'm going to point out an advanced concept that is often confusing while learning Spanish. In this conversation, when Felipe says he is not starting work until Monday, he says "voy a empezar hasta el próximo lunes". Literally translated, however, this means "I'm going to start work until next Monday". In Spanish we can leave off the not when we use "hasta" (until). You'll understand better with a few more examples: "They do not close until 9" = "Cierran hasta las nueve". "I will not come back until next month" = "Volveré hasta el próximo mes". Hope this helps. ¡Hasta luego!

Kathy	Buenos días Señor, soy Kathy Peterson, mucho gusto. Ah, vivo en el departamento 610. Soy su vecina y quiero darle la bienvenida al vecindario.
-------	--

Good morning Sir. I'm Kathy Peterson, nice to meet you. Uh, I live in apartment 610. I am your neighbor and I want to give you the welcome to the neighborhood.

Felipe	Muchas gracias señora ¿cómo me dijo? --[Kathy: Kathy Peterson.]--
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Thank you Ma'am What did you say? --[Kathy: Kathy Peterson.]--

Felipe	Peterson--yo soy Felipe Calderón.
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Peterson--yo soy Felipe Calderón.

Kathy	Y ¿de donde es Ud. Felipe?
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And where are you from Felipe?

Felipe	Yo soy de México señora.
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I'm from Mexico Ma'am.

Kathy	De México, Oh, qué bien. Y ¿recién llegó de México?
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From México, Oh, that's nice. And did you recently arrive from México?

Felipe	Sí, acabo de llegar hace dos días.
--------	------------------------------------

Yes, I just arrived 2 days ago.

Kathy	Oh, qué bien. Le doy la bienvenida y ¿viene más familia con Ud.?
-------	--

Oh, how nice. I give you the welcome and is more family coming with you?

Felipe	Por el momento, no, pero más adelante sí. Yo solamente vengo a trabajar y quizás en unas semanas próximamente ellos vendrán.
--------	--

Not for the moment, no, but later on, yes. I am just coming to work and perhaps in a few weeks they will come shortly.

Kathy	Ay, que bien. Y ¿en que trabajas señor Calderón?
-------	--

Oh, that's good. And what do you work in Mr. Calderón?

Felipe	Trabajo en la construcción; bueno voy a trabajar en la construcción.
--------	--

I work in construction; well I'm going to work in construction.

Kathy	¿Cuándo empieza su trabajo?
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When does your work start?

Felipe	Pues, de hecho, debería haber empezado ayer, pero voy a empezar hasta el próximo lunes porque hoy es sábado.
--------	--

Well, actually, I should have started yesterday, but I am not going to start until next monday because today is Saturday.

Kathy	Oh, qué bien, pues, le doy la bienvenida, le deseo éxito, y cualquier cosa que necesite, llámeme esta es mi tarjeta,
-------	--

Oh, that's nice, well, I give you the welcome, I wish you success, and anything that you need, call me this is my card,

Kathy	allí está el número de teléfono mío, el de mi esposo también. Y ojalá pronto podamos conocerle más.
-------	---

there is my telephone number, my husband's as well. and hopefully soon we can get to know you better.

Felipe	Muchas gracias señora. De...me gustaría aprovechar su amabilidad para preguntarle si hay por aquí cerca una tienda de comida o un supermercado.
--------	---

Thank you Ma'am. Of...I would like to take advantage of your kindness to ask you if there is around here a food store or a supermarket

Kathy	Oh, sí sí, la más cerca queda a dos cuadras de aquí. Ud. puede ir caminando y las que están más lejos puede ir en el autobús. El autobús pasa en la esquina.
-------	--

Oh, yes yes, the closest is two blocks from here. You can go on foot and the ones that are further away you can go on the bus. The bus comes by at the corner.

Felipe	Oh ¿de veras?
--------	---------------

Oh really?

Kathy	Sí. Está cerca.
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Yes. It's close by.

Felipe	Bueno y ¿no sabe qué tan seguido el autobús o el camión pasa?
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Alright and you don't know how often the bus or the truck (slang, Mexico) comes by?

Kathy	Cada media hora.
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Every half hour.

El Vecino Nuevo, Part II

Speakers: Jorge and Luz from Mexico

Do you have any Spanish-speaking neighbors? If so, I would like to challenge you once again to be brave and start up a conversation with them in Spanish. You will be surprised at how nice they are--you may even make some new friends. Just like Kathy in the conversation, talk to them about simple things like they're children, where they are from, and the weather.

LANGUAGE TIP: A tricky thing about Spanish is that the order of words in a sentence is often different than the order we use in English. For example, in English the Subject of the sentence always comes before the verb (John threw the ball). But in Spanish it is just as common for the subject to come after the verb (threw the ball John). Here are several examples from this conversation: "es un poquito drástico el cambio" (is a bit drastic the change), "cae nieve aquí" (falls snow here), "no me intimide el clima" (doesn't intimidate me the weather). You can have fun talking "backwards" like this in English to help you remember--next time you want to say "the food is good" say "is good the food" instead. ¡Buena Suerte!

Felipe	Ah muy bien. Qué bueno. Pues, le agradezco mucho su amabilidad y me dará mucho gusto conocer a su esposo. Si me permiten la próxima semana ya que me haya yo instalado bien quizá les pudiera yo invitar a comer a Ud. y a su esposo una comida Mexicana que es muy típica del lugar de donde yo vengo que es el estado de Tabasco.
--------	---

Oh Ok. That's great. Well, I very much appreciate your kindness and I will be a pleasure to meet your husband. If you would allow me next week once I have gotten settled in well maybe I Could invite you and your husband to eat a Mexican dinner that is very typical of the place where I come from which is the state of Tabasco.

Kathy	Nos dará mucho gusto compartir la comida con Ud. ¿Ud. tiene hijos? ¿Viene su familia con Ud.?
-------	---

I will be a pleasure for us to share dinner with you. Do you have children? Is your family coming with you?

Felipe	Eh, no, ellos están en México ahora pero quizás en unas semanas más los traiga. Yo estoy solamente juntando--ahorrando un poco de dinero para que ellos lleguen.
--------	--

Uh, no, they are in Mexico now but maybe in a few weeks more I'll bring them. I am just getting together--saving a little money so that they can get here.

Kathy	Pues avísame cuando ellos están aquí, será un placer comer con Uds. Señor Calderón.
-------	---

Well let me know when they are here, It will be a pleasure to eat with you all Mr. Calderón.

Felipe	Bueno Ud. los va a ver porque en realidad ellos son muy traviesos y a veces demasiado, pero bueno--[Kathy: Los míos también son traviesos.]
--------	---

Well you'll see them (my kids) because honestly they are very mischievous and sometimes a little too much, but well--[Kathy: mine are also mischievous]

Felipe	Sí.
--------	-----

Yes.

Kathy	Yo creo que ellos se van a llevar muy bien.
-------	---

I think that they are going to get along very well.

Felipe	Válgame Dios, no me diga eso Señora porque entonces aquí vamos a tener una pandilla.
--------	--

God help me, don't tell me that Ma'am because then here we're going to have a gang.

Kathy	El lugar de donde Ud. viene ¿Qué clima tiene? ¿Cómo es el clima? --[Felipe: Es un clima muy tropical.]
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The place where you come from What climate does it have? What is the climate like? --[Felipe: It's a very tropical climate.]

Felipe	¿No sé si Ud. sepa donde está el estado de Tabasco en México?
--------	---

I'm not sure if you know where the state of Tabasco is in Mexico?

Kathy	Oh no, realmente no conozco México. --[Felipe: Bueno es el sur.]
-------	--

Oh no, I really don't know Mexico--[Felipe: Well it's in the south.]

Felipe	Y hace costa, tiene una costa con el golfo de México. Tenemos playa y mar, entonces para mí llegar aquí es un poquito drástico el cambio porque es muy frío.
--------	--

And it makes coast, it has a coast with the gulf of Mexico. We have beach and sea, so for me arriving here the change is a little drastic because it is very cold.

Felipe	aunque yo sé que todavía es el invierno pero ay carambas va a ser un poquito difícil, ¿eh? me han dicho que cae nieve aquí.
--------	---

Even though I know that it is still winter but my goodness It's going to be a little difficult, eh? They have told me that snow falls here.

Kathy	Sí. Es...a veces tenemos unos inviernos muy largos, pero Ud. va a estar bien. No dude en llamarnos y si necesita alguna ayuda,
-------	--

Yes. It's...sometimes we have some very long winters, but you'll be Ok. Don't hesitate to call us and if you need some help--

Felipe	Bueno, con vecinos como Uds. a mí no me intimide el clima.
--------	--

Well, with neighbors like you guys The weather doesn't intimidate me.

Kathy	Mucho gusto encantada de conocerle--[Felipe: Mucho gusto señora.]
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a pleasure delighted to meet you--[Felipe: Nice to meet you Ma'am.]

Compañero de Trabajo (Meeting a Co-worker)

Speakers: Luis from Hidalgo, Mexico and Marlén from Zacatecas, Mexico

One of the easiest things to talk about in Spanish (and one you will find yourself talking about whenever you speak Spanish) is how you learned to speak Spanish. One of the most common questions I get asked whenever I start a Spanish conversation is "Where did you learn to speak Spanish" or "How do you know how to speak Spanish?" Let's go surprise one of our co-workers by speaking to him in Spanish.

LANGUAGE TIP: One thing that is really fun about Spanish is diminutive and augmentative endings. Those may sound like difficult concepts, but they are really quite simple. Diminutive comes from the word diminish which means "to make smaller". Augmentative comes from the word augment which means, of course, "to make bigger". The most common diminutive ending is "ito/a". For example, "casa" = house; "casita" = little house. In this conversation, instead of "un poco" (a little), Amy says "hablo un poquito" (I speak a tiny bit). The most common augmentative ending is "ote/a". For example, "grande" = big; "grandote" = really big. In this conversation instead of "sorpresa" (surprise), Ricardo says "es una sorpresota" (it's a big surprise).

Amy	Hola Ricardo. ¿Ése es tu nombre, no, Ricardo?
-----	---

Hello Ricardo. That's your name, right, Ricardo?

Ricardo	¿Me estás hablando a mí?
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Are you talking to me?

Amy	Sí.
-----	-----

Yes.

Ricardo	No, mí nombre es Petardo.
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No, my name is Petardo.

Amy	Oy, discúlpame, yo pensé que te llamabas Ricardo.
-----	---

Oh, excuse me, I thought that your name was Ricardo.

Ricardo	No, no es cierto, sí me llamo Ricardo. Oye, pero, ¿estás hablando español?
---------	--

No, it's not true (idiom: I'm kidding), my name is Ricardo. Hey, but, are you speaking Spanish?

Amy	Sí, estoy hablando un poquito. Me da un poco de pena, pero sí estoy hablando-- -[Ricardo: Pero si estás bien...]
-----	---

yes, I am speaking a little. I am a little embarrassed, but yes I am speaking--
[Ricardo: but if you are really...]

Ricardo	eres bien güera, ¿de dónde hablas español?
---------	--

you are really light-skinned (nickname for Americans), where do you speak Spanish from?

Amy	Oh, es que compré un curso para aprender español, pero me da pena hablar porque a veces pienso que no estoy diciendo las cosas correctas.
-----	---

Oh, the thing is I bought a course to learn Spanish. but I get embarrassed to talk because sometimes I think that I'm not saying the right things.

Ricardo	Y ¿por qué nunca habías dicho nada? Todos los días pasas por aquí para tu oficina y nunca me has dicho ni buenos días.
---------	--

And why hadn't you ever said anything? Everyday you come by here on the way to your office and you haven't ever even said good morning.

Amy	Ay es que no me animaba
-----	-------------------------

Oh it's that I didn't dare

Ricardo	Pero, oh pues es una sorpresota ¿eh? Porque te digo te he visto todos los días y bien güera y todo dije no pues ella no habla nada de español. Y ya ves que no tengo muchos cuates aquí.
---------	--

But, oh well it's a big surprise, eh? Because I tell you I have seen you everyday and really light-skinned and everything I said no well she doesn't speak a bit of Spanish. And you can see I don't have a lot of pals here.

Amy	Oye, ¿y de dónde eres Ricardo?
-----	--------------------------------

Hey, and where are you from Ricardo?

Ricardo	Yo me crucé la frontera hace como quince años. Oye estoy bien sorprendido que habla español la verdad porque ni por aquí me pasaba que tu supieras hablar español.
---------	--

I crossed the border like fifteen years ago. Hey I am really surprised that you speak Spanish honestly because I had no idea (not even by here) that you would know how to speak Spanish.

Amy	Es que ¿sabes que? A mí siempre me ha llamado la atención como la gente habla y estaba interesada en hablar otro idioma.
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It's just that do you know what? To me it has always called my attention how people speak and I was interested in speaking another language.

Ricardo	Entonces, ¿por qué escogiste español?
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So how come you chose Spanish?

Amy	Me gusta español porque, bueno, aquí hay mucha gente hispana; y yo pienso que español es una de las lenguas que más se habla en muchos países. Entonces por eso me interesé por este...este curso. No más que como te digo, casi nunca lo practico porque me daban muchos nervios, pero te veo que eres buena gente.
-----	--

I like Spanish because, well, here there are a lot of Hispanic people; and I think that Spanish is one of the languages that is spoken most in many countries. So that's why I got interested in this...this course. It's just that like I was saying, I almost never practice it because I would get nervous, but I can see that you are a good guy

Ricardo	Más o menos, más o menos.
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More or less, more or less.

Conocer a un Compañero de Trabajo, Part II

Speakers: Luis from Hidalgo, Mexico and Marlén from Zacatecas, Mexico

The more you venture out to talk with others in Spanish, the more you will realize how friendly and helpful they are. They will probably be happy to have someone to chat with. Perhaps you could help them with their English in exchange for practicing Spanish with you. Try starting with the simple question "¿Me permite practicar hablando español con Ud.?" (May I practice speaking Spanish with you?). You will be surprised at the results.

LANGUAGE TIP: One of the biggest benefits of the PPT is that you will learn how Spanish speakers really talk. You will be able to pick up idioms, slang, and mannerisms that are difficult to learn in any other manner. One example, from this conversation is seen in how they refer to Mexico as "aquel lado" (that side). While living in Mexico, people would always tell me about they're friends and relatives "en el otro lado" (on the other side). At first I wondered if they were referring to people who had passed away, but I quickly realized that that is how they refer to the United States since it is "on the other side" of the border.

Amy	Oye y Ricardo y ¿tú piensas que pueda seguir hablando contigo? Me gustará aprender más el poco español que sé.
-----	--

Hey and Ricardo and do you think that I can keep talking with you? I will like to learn more the little Spanish that I know.

Ricardo	sí, a mí me gustaría porque como te digo nunca...no tengo gente con quien hablar y bueno si hablas español aun mejor porque yo "no speak English."
---------	--

yes, I would like to because like I was telling you never... I don't have people to talk with and well if you speak Spanish even better because I "no speak English."

Amy	Ay, sí hablas.
-----	----------------

Oh, yes you speak it.

Ricardo	y... ¿y tu de dónde eres? ¿Siempre has vivido aquí? o ¿de dónde es tu familia? o ¿qué onda?, ¿cuál es tu rollo?
---------	---

And... and you, where are you from? Have you always lived here or where is your family from or what's up? What's your deal?

Amy	Oh, es que yo nací en Chicago, pero nos mudamos aquí y ya tenemos viviendo aquí más de veinte años.
-----	---

Oh, the thing is I was born in Chicago but we moved here and we've been living here more than twenty years.

Ricardo	Pues andas lejos, ¿tienes familia en Chicago todavía?
---------	---

Well you are far away, do you have family in Chicago still?

Amy	Sí. Mí abuelita y algunos tíos viven allá, tengo primos también. Y tengo una prima que se casó también con un hispano y ellos también hablan español. Y ¿tu familia está aquí, Ricardo?
-----	---

yes. My grandmother and some uncles live there, I have cousins as well. And I have a cousin that got married too with a Hispanic man and they also speak Spanish. And your family is here, Ricardo?

Ricardo	No, a mí me gustaría, pero ellos no saben nadar así que se quedaron de aquel lado.
---------	--

No, I would like it, but they don't know how to swim so they stayed on that side.

Amy	Ah, eso no es cierto. ¿De verdad tu familia está de aquel—en México?
-----	--

Ah, that's not true. Really your family is on that--in México?

Ricardo	Sí sí pues es que allá no es fácil nada más agarrar tus chivas y venirte para acá. Normalmente un miembro de la familia se avienta, pues ahorita pues vivo así bien...bien cortito de dinero porque trato de mandarles a los que están de aquel lado.
---------	---

Yes yes well it's just that over there it's not easy to just grab your goats (slang) and come over here. Normally a member of the family dives in (gives it a try), so now well I live like this really... really short on money because I try to send to them those that are on that side.

Amy	Oye y... ¿trajiste tus "chivas" para acá?
-----	---

Hey and... you brought your "goats" over here?

Ricardo	¿El equipo del futbol?
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The Soccer team?

Amy	Pues tu dices no es fácil traer tus chivas. ¿Qué son las chivas?
-----	--

Well you say that it isn't easy to bring your "goats". What are the goats?

Ricardo	Oh, oh eso no te lo enseñan en ningún curso. yo creo es nada más acá de...de la gente del barrio. Chivas son tus cosas, tu ropa, todas tus pertenencias.
---------	--

Oh, oh that they don't teach you in any course. I think it's just here from... from the people in the neighborhood. Goats are your things, your clothes, all your belongings.

Amy	Ah, así que ahora aprendí. Fíjate es interesante hablar contigo; he aprendido más cosas. Oye, ojalá pueda seguir hablando contigo para que pueda seguir practicando mi español, me gustará aprender más.
-----	--

Ah so now I learned. You know it's interesting to talk with you; I have learned more things. Hey, hopefully I can keep talking with you so that I can keep practicing my Spanish I will like to learn more.

Ricardo	Si tienes una pregunta o hasta yo te puedo traer una palabra nueva para que practiques, digo si quieres seguir hablando conmigo; yo no tengo ningún problema, me gusta ayudar a la gente y pues me da mucho gusto que hablas español porque así ya como que tengo otro...otra amiga más ¿no?
---------	--

If you have a question or even I can bring you a new word so that you can practice, I mean if you want to keep talking with me; I don't have any problem, I like to help people and well I am glad that you speak Spanish because this way now it's like I have another... another friend more, right?

Amy	Bueno, yo te voy a visitar algunas veces, y te voy a preguntar, porque a veces yo oigo que platican los hispanos y dicen palabras y yo me quedo como "¿y eso que es?" Pero voy a ir a...¿está bien si voy y te pregunto que es para aprender más?
-----	---

Well, I'm going to visit you sometimes, and I'm going to ask, because sometimes I hear that the Hispanics are chatting and they say words and I'm am like, "and what is that?" But I'm going to go to...is it alright if I go and I ask you what it is to learn more?

Ricardo	Está bien Amy, que tengas buen día.
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It's fine Amy, have a good day.

Amy	Nos vemos Ricardo, cuídate, adiós.
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See you Ricardo, take care, bye.

Ricardo	Adios.
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Bye.