



# Personal Proficiency Trainer

Spring Series  
March 2009 Edition

Complete Transcript  
with Full Translation

## **March Edition - ¡Bienvenidos a La Primavera!**

¡Saludos! Greetings! ¡Hemos llegado a marzo! We've made it to March! Are you keeping up with your Spanish goals? Remember your New Year's resolutions!

Learning a foreign language is a challenging, but ultimately very rewarding process. The PPT gives you a great way to gauge your progress. Our ultimate goal is to help you progress to the point where you can truly communicate and express yourself in Spanish. As you know, half of communication is listening and understanding (many people say this is the most important half). By listening to how real native speakers really speak Spanish, you will gradually hone your listening and understanding skills. Each month you will find yourself understanding more and more. You can do it! ¡Creo en ti! I believe in you!

Te presento la edición de marzo del PPT. I present to you the March edition of the PPT. I am so pleased to continue our side-by-side comparison of Argentina and Mexico with four new advanced conversations featuring a speaker from Argentina and her husband from Mexico. Listen as they tell about their own struggles to learn English--they may have some helpful advice! Our speakers will also share their thoughts on living in the United States and adjusting to a new culture.

All four of our beginning conversations feature a pair of young speakers from Mexico. Listen to a conversation between old friends getting reacquainted. One of the most useful things to learn to talk about is your hobbies and interests. We'll take a look at a conversation between two friends about music. Finally, we'll learn about an important cultural and religious festival held every year throughout Latin America.

One of the benefits of the PPT is that you will get to meet speakers from all over the Spanish-speaking world (Spanish is spoken in over 25 countries!). If there is one lesson I hope you will learn from hearing the diversity of accents, it's that they are all surprisingly similar! Spanish has a fairly uniform pronunciation, so whether you learn Spanish in Spain or Mexico you will be able to communicate perfectly with Spanish speakers from anywhere in the world. One thing that is very unique, however, are the differences in the cultures and traditions of each country. I never get tired of learning about fascinating cultures--learning Spanish really does open the doors to new worlds--come and join me, let's travel the globe!

# CONVERSATIONS:

## ~BEGINNING~

### Un Viejo Amigo (An Old Friend)

Speakers: Claudia and Sandro from Mexico City, Mexico

You never know where you'll run into an old friend! Sometimes they pop up in the most unexpected places. It's always interesting to see how much they've changed and where they've been. Let's learn how to ask some questions about their family and where they live. Have fun!

Alicia	¿Juan? ¿Eres tú?
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John? Is that you?

Juan	¡Alicia! ¡No te he visto desde que estábamos en la preparatoria! ¿Cómo estás?
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Alicia, I haven't seen you since we were in high school! How are you?

Alicia	De maravilla, gracias. Y ¿qué hay de ti? ¿Ya no vives por aquí o sí?
--------	--

Great, thanks. and what about you? You don't still live around here do you?

Juan	No. Nos movimos a Houston hace unos años. Ay caray, no puedo creer que ya han pasado más de diez años.
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No. We moved up to Houston a few years ago. Wow, I can't believe that it's been more than ten years. (more than ten years have passed)

Alicia	Sí, ni yo puedo creerlo. Y ¿qué haces aquí en la ciudad?
--------	--

Yeah, I can't believe it either. And what are you doing here in town?

Juan	Ah venimos a ver a mis padres muy seguido. Mi mamá se enoja si no le traigo sus nietos una o dos veces al mes por lo menos.
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Oh we come to see my parents quite often. My mom gets mad if I don't bring her grandkids once or twice a month at least.

Alicia	Ah tienes hijos entonces. ¡Qué bien! ¿Cuántos tienes?
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Oh, you have kids then. That's great! How many do you have?

Juan	Solamente tenemos dos. Tengo un hijo de tres años, y acabamos de tener una niña hace unos meses.
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We just have two. I have a three-year-old son, and we just had a little girl a few months ago.

Alicia ¡Ay, qué lindo! Debes de estar muy orgulloso.

Oh, how cute! You must be very proud.

Juan Sí lo estoy, claro. Son niños muy buenos, aunque mi hijo tiene mucha pila, no se le acaba. Por cierto está corriendo por allí.

Yes I am, of course. They are very good kids, although my son has a lot of energy (battery), he doesn't run out. He is certainly running around over there.

Alicia ¿En verdad? Bueno, tal vez lo voy a conocer entonces.

Oh really? Well maybe I'll meet him then.

Juan Sí, por supuesto. ¿Y tú, qué tal? ¿Estás casada?

Yes, of course. And how about you? Are you married?

Alicia Sí. ¿Recuerdas a Darío?

Yeah, do you remember Dario?

Juan Claro, el muchacho alto que jugaba en el equipo de basquetbol.

Of course, the tall boy that played on the basketball team.

Alicia mmhmm. Nosotros fuimos al mismo colegio y nos casamos después de nuestro primer año allí.

Mmhmm, we went to the same college and got married after our first year there.

Juan ¿Y todavía viven aquí en Fort Worth entonces?

You still live here in Fort Worth then?

Alicia Sí. En realidad vivimos bien cerca.

Yep, actually we live pretty close by.

Juan Ah fantástico. ¿Y tú qué? ¿Ya tienes hijos?

Wow, that's great. So what about you? Do you have kids?

Alicia Sí Juan, no lo vas a creer, pero ya tengo cuatro hijos--y todos varones.

Yeah Juan, you won't believe it, but I already have four kids-- and all boys.

Juan ¿A poco sí? ¿Sólo varones? Y ¿les gusta jugar basquetbol como a su padre?

Really? Just boys? And do they like to play basketball like their father?

Alicia	Sí. A ellos les gusta mucho jugar a la pelota, y los cuatro son altos para la edad que tienen.
--------	--

Yeah, they really like playing ball, and all four are tall for their age (the age that they have).

Juan	Bueno, pues tenemos que decirle al entrenador de basquetbol que ya vienen.
------	--

Alright, well we have to tell (him) the basketball coach that they are coming.

Alicia	Jaja, sí. Él ya sabe. Les está esperando. Bueno, ya me tengo que ir, pero me dio gusto haberte visto de nuevo, Juan.
--------	--

Haha yeah. He already knows. He is expecting them. Well, I have to get going, but it was a pleasure having seen you again, Juan.

Juan	Sí, a mí también. Creo que debo ir a buscar a mi hijo ahora. Cuídate mucho.
------	---

Yeah, you too (to me also). I think I should go to look for my son now. Take care.

Alicia	Tú también. Adiós.
--------	--------------------

You too. Bye.

Juan	Adiós.
------	--------

Bye.

## La Musica (Music)

Speakers: Claudia and Sandro from Mexico City, Mexico

You never know where you'll run into an old friend! Sometimes they pop up in the most unexpected places. It's always interesting to see how much they've changed and where they've been. Let's learn how to ask some questions about their family and where they live. Have fun!

Diego	Oye Celia... ¡Celia!
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Hey Celia... Celia!

Celia	Ay perdón Diego, no te oí. Estaba escuchando mis audífonos.
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Oh I'm sorry Diego, I didn't hear you. I was listening to my headphones.

Diego	Sí, yo sé. Siempre estás escuchando tus audífonos. Escuchas la música más que cualquier otra persona que conozco. También estabas cantando.
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Yeah, I know. You are always listening to your headphones. You listen to music more than any other person I know. You were singing too.

Celia	No, no es cierto.
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No, that's not true.

Diego	Sí es cierto, te lo juro. Pero no te preocupes, tu voz no es tan mala.
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Yes, it's true, I swear. But don't worry, your voice isn't that bad.

Celia	Ah, gracias Diego. Pero sí, tienes razón, me encanta escuchar música. Hasta escucho música en la noche cuando me estoy durmiendo.
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Ah, thanks Diego. But yeah, you're right. I love listening to music. I even listen to music at night when I am falling asleep.

Diego	¿En serio? Yo no podría escuchar música y dormir. ¿Cómo lo haces?
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Seriously? I could never listen to music and sleep. How do you do it?

Celia	Pues me relaja por alguna razón. Claro no escucho música fuerte.
-------	--

Well it relaxes me for some reason. I of course don't listen to loud music.

Diego	¿Oh sí? Y ¿qué escuchas entonces?
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Oh yeah? What do you listen to then?

Celia	Pues en la noche cuando me estoy durmiendo escucho música clásica.
-------	--

Well at night when I am falling asleep I listen to classical music.

Diego	Oh pues eso me dormiría a mí también. Es muy aburrida.
-------	--

Oh well that would put me to sleep too. It's really boring.

Celia	Ay Diego, la música clásica no es tan mala. ¿Qué tipo de música escuchas tú?
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Oh Diego, classical music isn't that bad. What kind of music do you listen to?

Diego	No sé. Lo que sea. Escucho la radio más que nada. Música rock o lo que sea. De hecho me gusta tocar mi propia música.
-------	---

I don't know. Whatever. I listen to the radio more than anything. Rock music or whatever. Actually I like to play my own music.

Celia	¿Oh sí? ¿Qué tocas?
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Oh really? What do you play?

Diego	Toco guitarra, pero no soy tan bueno.
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I play guitar; but I'm not that good.

Celia	¡Qué padre! Siempre he querido aprender a tocar guitarra.
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Cool! I've always wanted to learn to play guitar.

Diego	Pues quizás te enseño.
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Well maybe I'll teach you.

Celia	Jaja, pero dices que no eres muy bueno.
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Haha, but you say that you're not very good?

Diego	Bueno, pues tal vez unas lecciones muy fáciles entonces. ¿Y tú, qué tal? ¿Tocas un instrumento?
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Alright, well maybe some really simple lessons then. And how about you? Do you play an instrument?

Celia	Sí. Toco el piano, pero creo que la guitarra sería más divertido. En verdad, estoy pensando en comprar una guitarra.
-------	--

Yeah, I play the piano, but I think (believe) the guitar would be more fun. Really, I am thinking about buying a guitar.

Diego	¿Oh sí? Pues tengo un amigo que está vendiendo su vieja guitarra usada. Si quieres, yo puedo preguntarle si te la vende.
-------	--

Oh yeah? Well I have a friend who is selling his old used guitar. If you want, I can ask him if he'll sell it to you.

Celia	Sí, estaría fantástico. Pero no tengo mucho dinero para gastar.
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Yeah, that would be great. But I don't have a lot of money to spend.

Diego	Está bien. Creo que él te dará un buen precio ya que somos amigos.
-------	--

That's fine. I think he'll give you a good price since we're friends.

Celia	Ándale. Gracias Diego. Déjame saber lo que dice.
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Cool. Thanks Diego. Let me know what he says.

Diego	Sí, no hay problema. Yo te aviso.
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Yeah, no problem. I'll notify you (let you know).



## ~INTERMEDIATE~

### La Semana Santa (Holy Week)

Speakers: Claudia and Sandro from Mexico City, Mexico

Catholicism is overwhelmingly the predominant religion in Spanish-speaking countries. Nearly 75% of Latin Americans and 90% of Spaniards consider themselves Catholics. Some of the Catholic religious holidays and celebrations have become so widely practiced that they are more like state holidays, deeply engrained in the culture. One of the biggest of all happens every year, the week before Easter--La Semana Santa. Let's learn about one of the more interesting traditions that they follow during this week.

Amy	Hola Francisco, gracias por venir. Y has llegado a tiempo, ya todo está listo.
-----	--

Hello Francisco, thanks for coming. And you've arrived right on time, everything is ready.

Francisco	Oh Amy, gracias por invitarme, de verdad. Estoy con un hambre. No sé si... ¿Hiciste algo de comer?
-----------	--

Oh Amy, thanks for inviting me, really. I am so hungry (I am with a hunger). I'm not sure if... you made something to eat?

Amy	Obviamente, te...te invité a comer, Francisco. Sí, ya todo está listo; mira, aquí está todo en la mesa.
-----	---

Obviously, I invited you to dinner, Francisco. Yes, everything is ready; look, here it all is on the table.

Francisco	¿De verdad? Y ¿qué hiciste de comer?
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Really? And what did you make to eat?

Amy	Mira, estuve preparando algunas...estuve viendo algunas recetas latinoamericanas de comida y hice arroz, hice carne enchilada, y un postrecito.
-----	---

Look, I was preparing some... I was looking at some Latin-American dinner recipes and I made rice, I made steak with chili-sauce, and a little dessert.

Francisco	Ah, interesante. Yo pensé que tú sabías, yo pensé que tú sabías en..en..en..en esta semana no se come carne.
-----------	--

Oh, interesting. I thought that you knew, I thought that you knew in..in..in.. in this week you don't eat meat.

Amy	¿De qué...de qué hablas, Francisco?
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What...what are you talking about, Francisco?

Francisco	De la Semana Santa.
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About Holy Week.

Amy	¿Semana Santa? ¿De qué me estás hablando?
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Holy Week? What are you talking (to me) about?

Francisco	¿No sabes lo que es la Semana Santa?
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Don't you know what Holy Week is?

Amy	No, no sé de que hablas. ¿Qué es eso?
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No, I don't know what you are talking about. What is that?

Francisco	Ah, bueno en México todo el mundo sabe, me imagino que tú no. Pero, no te preocupes, bueno, te explico qué es Semana Santa.
-----------	---

Oh, well in Mexico the whole world knows, I imagine that you don't. But, don't worry, alright, I'll explain what Holy Week is.

Amy	Sí explícame qué ahorita la verdad no sé de qué me hablas.
-----	--

Yes, explain it to me because right now I really (the truth) don't know what you are talking to me about.

Francisco	Yo sé, parece que te estoy confundiendo. Parece que te estoy confundiendo. Bueno, hay muchas cosas referente a Semana Santa.
-----------	--

I know, it seems like I am confusing you. It seems like I am confusing you. Alright, there are a lot of things regarding Holy Week.

Amy	Sí porque yo te estoy invitando a comery me estás hablando de carne y de Semana Santa. La verdad que ahorita no sé, estoy confundida.
-----	---

Yes because I am inviting you to dinner and you are talking to me about meat and about Holy Week. Honestly right now I don't know, I am confused.

Francisco	Bueno, Semana Santa la festejamos en México a finales de marzo y principios de abril. Y hay ciertas cosas que no hacemos.
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Well, we celebrate Holy Week in Mexico towards the end of March and the beginning of April. And there are certain things that we don't do.

Amy	Bueno, ¿y eso qué tiene que ver con la carne?
-----	---

Alright, and what does that have to do with meat?

Francisco	Una de las cosas que no hacemos es comer carne.
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One of the things that we don't do is eat meat.

Amy	Oh, ¿los siete días?
-----	----------------------

Oh, all seven days?

Francisco	Claro, los siete días de la semana. Dura desde lunes hasta el domingo; y todos esos días no se puede comer carne.
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Of course, seven days of the week. It lasts from Monday until Sunday; and all those days you can't eat meat.

Amy	Wow, y ¿qué es lo que comen entonces?
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Wow, and what is it that you eat then?

Francisco	Pescado. Pescado, arroz, todo menos carne de res, carne de puerco, carne de pollo.
-----------	--

Fish. Fish, rice, everything except beef, pork, chicken.

Amy	Me siento tan mal, lo siento por no--
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I feel so bad, I'm sorry for not--

Francisco	Es mi culpa por no haberte dicho.
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It's my fault for not having told you.

Amy	Bueno, no, no...no te preocupes, voy a estar--tratar de prepararte algo.
-----	--

Alright, don't, don't...don't worry, I'll be--try to prepare you something.

## La Semana Santa, Part II

Speakers: Claudia and Sandro from Mexico City, Mexico

Some people are hesitant to talk about religion, but I find it fascinating. There are so many interesting traditions and beliefs. For Catholics, each day of Holy Week has its own special significance and traditions. Let's learn about a few of these that our friends from Mexico celebrate.

Amy	Sígueme diciendo de que...que haces cada día.
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Keep telling me about what...what you do each day.

Francisco	Por ejemplo, hoy es miércoles. Hoy tenemos una misa. El miércoles se llama Miércoles de Ceniza. Porque hoy se hace una misa y el sacerdote te pone ceniza en tu frente.
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For example, today is Wednesday. Today we have a mass. Wednesday is called Ash Wednesday. Because today they do a mass and the priest puts ash on your forehead

Amy	Oh, ya veo. Y entonces cada día vas a hacer algo diferente. Y ¿qué vas a hacer el sábado por--
-----	--

Oh, now I see. And so each day you're going to do something different. And what are you going to do Saturday for--

Francisco	Bueno, el sábado lo decimos sábado de gloria. Sábado de gloria porque es cuando crucifican a Jesús. Entonces tenemos una persona que se viste como Jesús y lo crucificamos.
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Well, we call Saturday Saturday of Glory. Saturday of Glory because it's when they crucify Jesus. So we have a person that dresses like Jesus and we crucify him.

Amy	¿En el sábado? En el sábado, Exactamente. El sábado crucificamos a la persona que se disfraza de Jesús.
-----	---

On Saturday? On Saturday, exactly. Saturday we crucify the person that dresses up as Jesus.

Amy	Y entonces, vas a estar ocupado el domingo también me imagino.
-----	--

And so, you're going to be busy Sunday as well I imagine.

Francisco	Sí claro, el domingo se llama domingo de ramos.
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Yes of course, Sunday is called Palm Sunday (Sunday of branches).

Amy	Oh, ¡qué interesante! Entonces to(todo)--cada día es diferente y es como si fuera una fiesta grande. ¿Quién la organiza?
-----	--

Oh, how interesting! So every--each day is different and it's as if it were a huge party. Who organizes it?

Francisco	La Iglesia Católica. Y nosotros los Católicos.
-----------	--

The Catholic Church. And us, the Catholics.

Amy	¿Todos?
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All of you?

Francisco	Todos juntos.
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All together.

Amy	Mira, ¡qué interesante! Nunca había oído hablar de eso, pero no sé por qué; nunca he visto que hagan nada aquí en la ciudad donde vivo.
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Hey, how interesting! I had never heard (talking) of that, but I don't know why; I've never seen them do anything here in the city where I live.

Francisco	Bueno, es que, parece que esta tradición la seguimos más que todo en México. Yo tampoco la he visto por acá.
-----------	--

Well, it's because, it seems like we follow this tradition more than anything in Mexico. I haven't seen it over here either.

Amy	Sí en verdad es algo interesante. Bueno, pues discúlpame de veras. Pero mira, aquí tengo un poquito de pescado y camarones; sí los puedes comer, ¿verdad?
-----	---

Yes it really is something interesting. Alright, well I am truly sorry. But look, I have here some fish and shrimp; you can eat them, right?

Francisco	Claro. Me encantan aparte los camarones, son muy ricos. Perfecto, ¿me vas a ayudar a cocinar un poco?
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Of course. Besides I love shrimp, they are really good. Perfect, are you going to help me to cook a little?

Francisco	Sí. ¿Ya qué remedio? ¡Qué bien!
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Yeah. What else can I do? (expression: What solution?) Great!

~ADVANCED~

## Conoce a César y Claudia (Meet Cesar and Claudia)

Hablantes: César de Michoacán, México y Claudia de Mendoza, Argentina

Some of you already had the opportunity to listen to Cesar and Claudia's voices in the beginning conversations last month. This month we will get to know the people behind the voices a little better. I was so glad we were able to find a couple with mixed nationalities so that I could present their accents to you side-by-side. The Argentine accent is my personal favorite; to me it sounds very dainty and musical--what do you think?

César	Hola, ¿qué tal? Soy César y conmigo está Claudia, mi esposa.
-------	--

Hello, how are you? I'm Cesar and with me is Claudia, my wife.

Claudia	Hola, me llamo Claudia, como dijo César soy su esposa y espero que estés disfrutando de tus estudios de español. La verdad quiero felicitarte por...por estar estudiando español. Siempre es muy importante saber otra lengua aparte de la nuestra.
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Hi, my name is Claudia, like Cesar said I'm his wife and I hope that you are enjoying your Spanish studies. I really (the truth) want to congratulate you for...for (being in the process of) studying Spanish. It's always very important to know another language apart from our own.

César	Y bueno podemos entenderte porque así como tú ahora estás...este...estudiando español; en mi caso, yo también estuve estudiando inglés y entiendo el proceso que tienes que...que pasar. Y a mí algo que me ayudó mucho para aprender fue estudiaba y practicaba el triple, el cuádruple lo que podía...lo más que podía estudiar. Así que siempre se puede...lo más importante es...este...practicar.
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And well we can understand you (where you're coming from) because just as you are now ...um...studying Spanish; in my case, I was also studying English and I understand the process that you have to...to go through. And for me, something that helped me a lot to learn was I studied and I practiced three, (triple) four times (quadruple) as much as I could... as much as I could study. So it always can be done the most important thing is...um...to practice.

Claudia	Sí yo también, la verdad, hace quince años que estoy en Estados Unidos. Yo soy de Mendoza, Argentina y bueno, yo sé que, que los verbos a veces son diferentes pero como dice César si practicamos, todo se hace más fácil.
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Yeah I also, really, have been here in the United States for fifteen years. I am from Mendoza, Argentina and well, I know that, that the verbs are sometimes different but like Cesar says if we practice, everything gets easier.

César	Y bueno, eh, nosotros ahora vivimos aquí en Estados Unidos. Estamos aprendiendo también hablar cada día más inglés. Aprendemos la cultura, eh, disfrutamos mucho estar acá, así que para nosotros es una experiencia muy importante el poder hablar otro idioma. Esperamos que para ti también lo sea.
-------	--

And well, uh, we now live here in the United States. We are learning also to speak more English each day. We learn the culture, uh, we really enjoy being here, so for us it's a very important experience being able to speak another language. We hope that for you it is also.

Claudia	Si muchos lugares a este país le llaman...por eso le llaman el país de las oportunidades porque uno tiene oportunidad de aprender, de crecer, de trabajar, de estudiar. Y hablando de estudiar, yo espero que disfrutes las conversaciones que estás escuchando en español. La verdad deseo, de verdad que, ehm, que pronto hables español, así me puedes buscar o me podés buscar como hablamos en Argentina, me podés buscar y hablamos, tenemos una conversación en español. Yo sé que si te esforzás, ehm, pronto vas a poder entenderlo muy bien y, y bueno, y tener una conversación en plena en este idioma, en el español.
---------	--

Yes, many places call this country... that's why they call it the land of opportunities because one has (the) opportunity to learn, to grow, to work, to study. And speaking of studying, I hope that you enjoy the conversations that you are listening to in Spanish. I really wish, truly that, um, that you'll speak Spanish soon, so you can look me up or you "can" (vos conjugation) look me up like we say in Argentina, you can look me up and we'll talk, we'll have a conversation in Spanish. I know that if you try hard (vos conjugation), um, soon you'll be able to understand it very well and, and well and have a full conversation in this language, in Spanish.

## Conoce a César y Claudia, Parte II

Hablantes: César de Michoacán, México y Claudia de Mendoza, Argentina

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.

César	Algo que a mí me, me ayudó mucho, creo que mencioné un poco hace unos minutos, el, el poder aprender el inglés para mí fue un, un despertar. Pude darme cuenta de que había otros costumbres, otra manera de pensar, otra cultura totalmente diferente, y para mí fue una cosa muy, muy interesante. Ah, cuando yo llegué a este país, yo me propuse a aprender inglés lo más rápido posible; y recuerdo que renté una película y esa película la vi la primera vez y realmente no entendí mucho.
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Something that helped me a lot, I think I mentioned a little a few minutes ago, being able to learn English for me was an, an awakening. I was able to realize that there were other customs, other ways of thinking, another totally different culture, and for me it was a very, very interesting thing. Uh, when I arrived in this country, I set out to learn English as quickly as possible; and I remember that I rented a movie and that movie I watched it the first time and I really didn't understand much.

César	Así que decidí verla otra vez y otra vez y recuerdo que una semana la vi como ocho veces. hasta que pude entender que es lo que estaba pasando. Y algo que me ayudó fue empecé a tomar algunos cursos de inglés. Y cada día que podía, practicaba lo que estaba aprendiendo. El poder leer el periódico todos los días... recuerdo que al principio compré el periódico y leía todas las fotografías y lo que estaba abajo de las fotos nada más.
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So I decided to watch it again and again and I remember that one week I watched it like eight times until I could understand what it is that was happening. And something that helped me was I started to take some English classes. and each day that I could, I would practice what I was learning. Being able to read the newspaper everyday... I remember that at first I read--I bought the newspaper and I used to read all of the photographs and just what was underneath the photos.



02/03/2009César Después empecé a leer los anuncios clasificados de los...de los carros que a mí me lo--me llaman mucho la atención. Y poco a poco empecé a leer más. Así que la principal llave para mí, eh, para aprender el...el inglés fue la práctica. El poder escuchar el inglés en películas, el poder leer el inglés en los periódicos, todo lo que podía leer y obviamente practicaba lo más que podía; y eso fue realmente el punto donde yo empecé a entender y poder comunicarme con la gente aquí en este país.

Then I started to read the classified ads of the...of the cars that to me--that fascinate me (call my attention a lot). And little by little I started to read more. So the main key for me, uh, to learn English was practice. Being able to listen to English in movies, being able to read English in the newspaper, everything that I could read and obviously I practiced as much as I could; and that was really the point where I started to understand and be able to communicate with people here in this country.

Claudia A mí me encanta más escuchar porque escuchando por ejemplo, yo puedo salir a correr, a caminar a...incluso manejar y escuchar el--bueno en mi caso el inglés, ¿no? Algunas personas tenemos más facilidades que otras, yo no soy de las que tiene facilidades, pero hay otras personas que aprenden muy rápido. Yo aprendí muy rápido a hablar español cuando era chica, pero no, todavía no aprendo muy bien a hablar inglés. Eh, me encantaría tener la oportunidad de--y lo voy a hacer-- de empezar a escuchar como dice César, más, más el inglés; porque yo creo que esa es una manera muy efectiva para, para aprender otro idioma.

I love listening more because by listening for example, I can go out running, walking, ... even driving and listen to the--well in my case English, right? Some of us have more of a gift (ease) than others, I'm not one of those that has a gift (ease), but there are other people that learn very quickly. I learned to speak Spanish very quickly when I was little, but no, I still can't learn to speak English very well. Uh, I would love to have the opportunity to-- and I'm going to do it-- to start listening to, like Cesar says, more, more English; because I think that that is a very effective way to, to learn another language.

## Vida en Los Estados Unidos (Life in The US)

Hablantes: César de Michoacán, México y Claudia de Mendoza, Argentina

One story that couples never get tired of telling is how they met! Are you curious how a Claudia from Argentina met Cesar from Mexico and the ultimately ended up in the United States? Let's ask them to share their story with us.

Claudia	Cuando yo vine aquí a Estados Unidos para conocer Disneyland y...Disneylandia y, y bueno a los dos meses cuando ya me estaba preparando para volver para Argentina, la aerolínea que era una aerolínea muy barata de Paraguay, eh, me llamó que quedó en quiebra. Entonces yo me quedé aquí y decidí quedarme a, a trabajar por un tiempo y durante ese, ese tiempo conocí a César y la verdad que estuve muy feliz que nos hayamos conocido. Él vino de tan lejos y yo de tan lejos y aquí en Estados--este país nos unió.
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When I came here to the United States to see Disneyland and...Disneyland (Spanish pronunciation) and, and well after two months when I was just getting Ready to go back to Argentina, the airline that was a very cheap airline from Paraguay, uh, called to say that it went bankrupt. So I stayed here and I decided to stay to, to work for a while and during that, that time I met Cesar and honestly I was very happy that we had met. He came from so far away and I came from so far away and here in the United--this country brought us together

César	Y estaba haciendo planes ella de regresar a Argentina. Ya estaba juntando su dinero. Así que bueno, un día que ya estaba casi lista para comprar su boleto, me dijo, estoy ya bien cerquita de regresar a Argentina. Y me puse a pensar y me dije, no, más vale que le proponga matrimonio de una vez--[Claudia: Y no me dejaron]--
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And she was making plans to go back to Argentina. She was already getting her money together. So well, one day when she was almost ready to buy her ticket, she told me, I am really close now to going back to Argentina. And I got to thinking and I said to myself, no, I better propose marriage right away--[Claudia: And they didn't let me]--

César	Y que se quede conmigo; y se quedó acá y ha sido algo muy...muy bueno para, para nosotros.
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So that she'll stay with me; and she stayed here and it has been something very... very good for, for us.

Claudia	La verdad me encanta porque yo pensé que Estados Unidos iban a haber toda gente que hablaba solamente ingles. Y venía muy preocupada que nadie me iba a entender. Pero, bueno, me encontré con la sorpresa de que hay mucha gente de, de muchos países. No solamente hablan ingles, sino me encontré con mucha gente hispana, con...bueno italiana, mucha gente europea también. Yo, mi ascendencia en mi familia, yo desciendo de, de italianos y argentinos. Entonces cuando encontraba a un italiano o por supuesto un hispano ay, me ponía muy feliz porque entonces yo podía conversar y...
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Honestly I love it because I thought that the United States was going to be all people that only spoke English. And I came very worried that nobody was going to understand me. But, well, I came across (found myself with) the surprise that there are a lot of people from, from many countries. They don't only speak English, but I came across a lot of Hispanic people, with...well Italians (Italian people), a lot of European people as well. Me, my ancestry in my family, I am descended from, from Italians and Argentines. So when I came across an Italian or of course a Hispanic oh, I got really happy because then I could converse (chat) and...

César	Cuando yo la conocí, ella tenía muchas ganas de regresar a Argentina Y yo le dije, ¿qué vas a hacer en Argentina? ¿Qué hay allá que no hay acá? Así de que--
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When I met her, she really felt like going back to Argentina. And I told her, what are you going to do in Argentina? What is there there that there isn't here? So--

Claudia	Bueno no hay mexicanos--
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Well, there are no Mexicans--

César	Decidió quedarse acá, nos casamos y hemos tenido muy, muy buenas experiencias juntos.
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She decided to stay here, we got married and we have had very, very nice experiences together.

## La Familia y La Cultura (Family and Culture)

Hablantes: César de Michoacán, México y Claudia de Mendoza, Argentina

Adjusting to a new culture can be a fascinating and sometimes difficult process. Let's ask Cesar and Claudia how they have adjusted to their new culture living here in the United States.

Claudia	La verdad cuando yo...cuando nos casamos, yo dije, bueno, cuando tengamos el primer hijo, podemos volver a mi país o al país de César. Cuando tengamos el segundo. Ya vamos por la tercera y...y nos damos cuenta que ahora en estos momentos que las oportunidades, por ejemplo de, de trabajo, uno de los ejemplos, que existen acá en Estados Unidos no son las mismas oportunidades que hay en México o en Argentina.
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Truthfully when I... when we got married, I said, well, when we have our first child, we can go back to my country or to Cesar's country. When we have the second. Now we're on the third and... and we realize that now at this time (in these moments) that the opportunities, for example of, of work, one of the examples, that exist here in the United States are not the same opportunities that there are in Mexico or Argentina.

Claudia	Y también pensando en el futuro para nuestros hijos, ehm, todas esas, ehm, estos sueños; creemos nosotros que se van a concretar más rápido aquí, y por eso seguimos viviendo aquí ya con nuestros hijos en Estados Unidos.
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And also thinking about the future for our children, um, all those, um, those dreams; we believe that they are going to become a reality (become fixed) more quickly here, and that's why we continue living here now with our children in the United States.

César	Y bueno, yo acá tengo ya un tiempo y tengo un negocio donde hacemos préstamos para, para las casas, para la gente que va a comprar casas. Y tiene sus altos, sus bajos, pero como todos los trabajos, como todas las cosas, hay que solamente trabajar duro
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And well, I've been here for some time now (I have a time here) and I have a business where we do loans for, for houses, for the people that are going to buy houses. And it has its ups, its downs, but like all jobs, like all things, you just have to work hard

César	y la verdad que lo disfrutamos mucho es algo que nos da bastante libertad y nos permite vivir acá de una manera cómoda. Así que Claudia tiene su negocio, como ya dijo, del mate.
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and honestly we enjoy it a lot it's something that gives us quite a bit of freedom and it allows us to live here comfortably (in a comfortable way). So Claudia has her business, like she already said, of the mate (Argentine tea).

Claudia	El mate, De hecho yo, yo... cuando me sentía muy nostálgica en este país porque extrañaba mucho mi cultura, el mate es un...es un, es una clase de té que se toma mucho en Argentina. Y es una hierba natural y, y bueno entonces yo dije a César, la verdad yo quiero hacer algo que tenga que ver con mi cultura aunque esté en Estados Unidos y...
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The mate, in fact I, I... when I was feeling very nostalgic in this country because I really missed my culture, mate is a...it's a, it's a kind of tea that is drunk a lot in Argentina. And it's a natural herb and, and well, so I said to Cesar, I really want to do something that has to do (see) with my culture even though I am in the United States and...

Claudia	Y bueno, yo ya abrí ahora...me estoy dedicando a abrir un negocio de...que se llama "El Mate" y estoy tomando mate, conversando con gente y se--nos juntamos en mi negocio a veces algunos Argentinos a, a tomar mate, conversar, de la misma manera que lo hacemos en mi país.
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And well, I already opened now... I am working on opening a business of... that is called "El Mate" and I am drinking mate, chatting with people and they--"we" get together at my business sometimes, a few of us Argentines to, (word order: should replace "we") to drink mate, to chat, in the same way that we do it in my country.

César	En el momento no tenemos mascotas. Tratamos de tener, y un día conseguimos un par de gatitos y un perrito. Pero era muy complicado porque no teníamos mucho tiempo para atenderlos y los nenes realmente no, no estaban acostumbrados a tenerlos.
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At the moment we don't have pets. We tried having (them), and one day we got a pair of kittens and a puppy. But it was really complicated because we didn't have a lot of time to take care of them and the kids really weren't accustomed to having them.

Claudia	No, la verdad ellos pensaban que eran juguetes y ipobrecitos, no! Mejor preferimos, ehm, vol--devolverlos a...de donde vinieron; porque iban a estar más seguros allí que en nuestra casa.
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No, really they thought that they were toys and the poor things, no! we preferred instead, um, to re--to return them to...where they came from; because they were going to be safer there than in our house.

César	Así que por el momento no tenemos...este...ninguna mascota y por lo pronto yo tengo una esposa que es...este...muy sabia en sus decisiones, es muy pensante, muy madura y sobre todo, muy divertida, tiene muy buen sentido del humor--
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So for now we don't have...um... any pet and for the time being I have a wife who is...uh... very wise in her decisions, is very thoughtful, very mature, and above all, a lot of fun, she has a very good sense of humor--

Claudia	Ah, gracias--[César: siempre es,
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Oh, thank you--[Cesar: it's always,

César	Es un placer estar alrededor de ella, junto con ella. Así que tenemos unos niños maravillosos, una esposa hermosa; y bueno, trabajando como toda la gente. Ahm...
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It's a pleasure to be around her, together with her. So we have some wonderful children, a beautiful wife; and well, working like everyone. Um...

Claudia	En cuanto a los sueños, por ejemplo a veces nos ponemos a pensar; claro, antes de conocernos teníamos sueños individuales. Ahora ya, ya pensamos como familia ¿no? Qué es lo que conviene a toda la familia. Eh, y es seguir progresando, trabajar duro para (que) darles un buen estudio a nuestros hijos.
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Regarding dreams, for example sometimes we get to thinking; of course, before we met we had individual dreams. Now we think like a family, right? What it is that is best for the whole family. Uh, and that is to keep progressing, to work hard to give a good education (study) to our children.