



# Personal Proficiency Trainer

Fall Series

October 2009 Edition

Complete Transcript  
with Full Translation

# Edición de Octubre - El mes de preparación

La brisa fresca se burla de las hojas pintadas, esperando a que se caigan. El octubre ha llegado. The cool breeze teases the painted leaves, waiting for them to fall. October has come. Autumn is such a beautiful time of year. Hopefully you can take the time to appreciate the wonders that Mother Nature offers us during these changing months. This is also an excellent month to learn to talk about the beautiful scenery and coming cold in Spanish!

This month we will listen in on a conversation that might happen between YOU as a Spanish learner and a native Spanish speaker from Mexico. These are the types of conversations we hope that you will become comfortable with. Another friendly conversation topic that you should become comfortable with is the weather. Listen to a new immigrant's reaction to the cold weather!

In our advanced conversations, we'll learn a little more about the native country of two of our Mexican speakers. People enjoy talking about their homeland--especially when they are far away. We'll also get to know Miguel from Texas and the interesting story of the small town where Lalo from Mexico grew up.

¡Qué disfruten de las conversaciones! Enjoy the conversations!

¡Buena suerte! Good Luck!

## **\*UPGRADE!**

We would like to thank all those who have given us feedback about the PPT. We value each and every comment. In response to your input, two months ago we reprogrammed the PPT to make it run smoother. In previous months, you may have noticed some choppiness or soft audio blips. We have redesigned the engine to give higher quality, smoother playback.

Also, you will now be able to play each phrase while you see the English text when you click the Translation button. In addition, we have added the Vocabulary that goes along with each conversation to the Transcript. Please let us know your thoughts and if you were able to appreciate the improvement. ¡Gracias!

# CONVERSATIONS:

~ BEGINNING ~

## Aprender El Español (Learning Spanish)

Speakers: Miguel from Texas y Olegario from Mexicali, México

I feel like the absolute best advice I can give you about learning Spanish is this: practice, practice, practice. And although computer programs and school classes can give you a great foundation and framework, there is no replacement for the learning that takes place as you struggle to express yourself and understand others in a foreign language.

### Vocabulario

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| buenos días           | good morning      |
| ¿qué tal?             | how's it going?   |
| ¿cómo se llama usted? | what's your name? |
| mi nombre             | my name           |
| un poco más despacio  | a little slower   |
| por favor             | please            |
| perfecto              | perfect           |
| difícil               | difficult         |
| ¿en serio?            | seriously?        |
| falta de práctica     | lack of practice  |
| tal vez               | perhaps           |
| quizás                | maybe             |
| soy nacido en         | I was born in     |
| cerca de              | close to          |
| retirado              | distant           |
| el sur                | the south         |
| bonito                | pretty, nice      |

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| hermoso             | beautiful             |
| tengo viviendo aquí | I've been living here |
| toda mi vida        | my whole life         |

Raymond Buenos días, Señor.

Good morning, Sir.

Rodrigo Hola, ¿qué tal? Buenos días.

Hello, How's it going? Good morning.

Raymond Mi nombre es Raymond.

My name is Raymond

Rodrigo Reyman.

"Raymon".

Raymond No, Raymond.

No, Raymond.

Rodrigo Raymond.

Raymond.

Raymond Sí, ¿cómo se llama usted?

Yes, what's your name?

Rodrigo Mi nombre es Rodrigo Rivas.

My name is Rodrigo Rivas.

Raymond ¿Cómo?

What?

Rodrigo Rodrigo Rivas.

Rodrigo Rivas.

Raymond Un poco más despacio, por favor.

A little slower please

Rodrigo Oh ok, ok. Mi nombre es Rodrigo Rivas.

Oh ok, ok, My name is Rodrigo Rivas.

Raymond Rodrigo Rivas.

Rodrigo Rivas.

Rodrigo Rodrigo.

Rodrigo.

Raymond Rodrigo.

Rodrigo.

Rodrigo Rivas.

Rivas.

Raymond Rivas.

Rivas.

Rodrigo Perfecto, a ver--[Rodrigo Rivas] perfecto.

Perfect, there you go--[Rodrigo Rivas], perfect.

Raymond Es su nombre muy difícil.

Your name is very difficult.

Rodrigo ¿En serio?--[Rodrigo Rivas] Eh, tal vez es solo falta de práctica.

Seriously?--[Rodrigo Rivas] Eh, perhaps it's just a lack of practice.

Raymond Quizás un poco más práctica. ¿De dónde es usted?

Maybe a little more practice. Where are you from?

Rodrigo Yo soy nacido en México.

I was born in Mexico.

Raymond    México--[así es]--¿En qué parte de México?

Mexico--[that's right]--What part of Mexico?

Rodrigo    Yo soy nacido en Durango, México.

I was born in Durango, Mexico.

Raymond    Durango. ¿Es cerca de Cancún?

Durango. Is that close to Cancun?

Rodrigo    Oh no, es muy retirado, Cancún allá está más para el sur.

Oh no, it's very distant, Cancun is there more toward the south.

Raymond    Para el sur. Oh.

Toward the south. Oh.

Rodrigo    ¿Y tu, de dónde eres?

And you, where are you from?

Raymond    Yo, yo soy de California.

Me, I am from California.

Rodrigo    Oh, California es muy bonito.

Oh, California is very pretty.

Raymond    Sí es muy hermoso California. ¿Cuántos años tiene usted?

Yes California is very beautiful. How old are you?

Rodrigo    Cuarenta años. ¿Y tú, qué edad tienes?

Forty years. And you, how old are you?

Raymond    Yo tengo treinta años de edad. Yo tengo viviendo aquí casi toda mi vida.

I am thirty years old. I have been living here

Rodrigo    Oh, perfecto. Yo tengo cinco años que estoy aquí en Estados Unidos.

Oh, perfect. I have been here in the United States for five years.

## Aprender El Español, Part II

Speakers: Miguel from Texas y Olegario from Mexicali, México

A great conversation starter that you can use with any native speaker is to share your experiences learning Spanish. Chances are they will be learning English as well, perhaps you can help each other!

Another quick tip that you can use to help you become conversational is to prepare beforehand. Take some time to sit down with a dictionary and a pen and paper. Now, start talking about yourself in Spanish. Talk about where you're from. Tell about your family and your favorite pastimes. Talk about your work and your travels. Every time you think of something to say and don't quite know how to express it, look it up and write it down. Now you can practice again with your list--before you know it you'll be able to hold full conversations.

### Vocabulario

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ¿qué trajo?         | what did you bring? |
| delicioso           | delicious           |
| papas fritas        | french fries        |
| suena igual         | it sounds the same  |
| depende             | it depends          |
| pronunciar          | to pronounce        |
| exactamente         | exactly             |
| estoy estudiando    | I am studying       |
| no sé               | I don't know        |
| ¿cómo aprendiste?   | how did you learn?  |
| todavía             | still               |
| aprendí             | I learned           |
| tomar un curso      | to take a course    |
| me parece excelente | that sounds great   |
| práctico            | practical           |
| te felicito         | I congratulate you  |

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| hacer un esfuerzo | to make an effort |
| juntarse          | to get together   |
| estudiar          | to study          |
| practicar         | to practice       |
| gusto de verte    | nice seeing you   |

Raymond ¿Usted qué trajo para comer?

What did you bring to eat?

Rodrigo Oh, pues yo traje unas deliciosas quesadillas.

Oh, well I brought some delicious quesadillas.

Raymond Quesadillas.

Quesadillas.

Rodrigo ¿Sabes lo qué es quesadillas?

Do you know what quesadillas is?

Raymond Sí sí sé lo que son quesadillas. Yo traje una hamburguesa. Una hamburguesa y ¿frais?

Yes yes I know what quesadillas are. I brought a hamburger. A hamburger and fries?

Rodrigo ¿Frais? ¿Qué es frais?

Fries? What is fries?

Raymond Éstas. Éstas son frais.

These. These are fries.

Rodrigo Oh, ésas se llaman "papas fritas" en México.

Oh, those are called "french fries" in Mexico.



Raymond ¿Papas fritas?--[papas, son papas] Pero, ¿papas es como mi papá?

French fries?--[fries, they're fries] But, fries is like my dad?

Rodrigo Bueno suena igual, papá y papa, suena igual pero papá es--[papá] el papá. Depende como lo pronuncias. Papá.

Well it sounds the same, dad and fry, it sounds the same but dad is--[dad] the dad. It depends how you pronounce it. Dad.

Raymond Papá.

Dad.

Rodrigo Y papa.

and fry.

Raymond Papa. Oh, ok. Papas. Papas fritas. No papás fritas.

Fry. Oh, ok. Fries. French fries. not dad fries.

Rodrigo Exactamente. Estoy estudiando inglés y todavía, eh, no sé la pronunciación perfecta. ¿Y tú, como aprendistes lo que sabes Raymond de español porque, sabes, se te entiende bien el español.

Exactly. I am studying English and I still, uh, don't know the perfect pronunciation. And you, how did you learn what you know of Spanish, Raymond, because, you know, your Spanish is easily understood.

Raymond Yo aprendí el español tomando un curso en la computadora.

I learned Spanish taking a course on the computer.

Rodrigo Oh excelente. Eso me parece excelente y muy práctico. Porque lo estudias en tu casa.

Oh great. That sounds great and very practical. Because you study it at home.

Raymond Sí. Tomo muchas horas aprendiendo el español.

Yes. I spend many hours learning Spanish.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Rodrigo | Oh te felicito. Te felicito. Yo también estoy haciendo un esfuerzo por aprender el inglés. |
|---------|--|

Oh I congratulate you. I congratulate you. I am also making an effort to learn English.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Raymond | En alguna ocasión ,yo y usted nos podemos juntar para yo aprender más el español y yo le puedo ayudar a usted con el inglés. |
|---------|--|

Sometime (on some occasion), you and I can get together for me to learn more Spanish and I can help you with English.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Rodrigo | Eh, me parece excelente Raymond. Eh, aprecio tu invitación y te la agradezco. Me encantaría estudiar inglés y practicarlo contigo y que tú estudias español y que lo practicas conmigo, claro que sí. |
|---------|---|

Uh, that sounds great Raymond. Uh, I appreciate your invitation and I am grateful for it. I would love to study English and practice it with you and for you to study Spanish and for you to practice it with me, of course.

|         |                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Raymond | Perfecto Rodrigo, nos vemos después. |
|---------|--------------------------------------|

Perfect Rodrigo, we'll see you later.

|         |                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Rodrigo | Claro que sí Raymond, gusto de verte. |
|---------|---------------------------------------|

Of course Raymond, good to see you.

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Raymond | Adiós. |
|---------|--------|

Bye.

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Rodrigo | Adiós |
|---------|-------|

Bye.

## ~ BEGINNING / INTERMEDIATE ~

### El Otoño (Autumn)

Speakers: Juan from Michoacán, México and Erika from Nayarit, México

Do you like to play in the leaves? I remember that I used to love helping my father to rake the lawn when I was a child. There is nothing as fun as diving into a pile of colorful leaves. Let's talk to our friend Adela from Mexico about the fall leaves and the upcoming winter.

#### Vocabulario

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| te voy a decir ____ | I'm going to call you ____   |
| la naturaleza       | nature, outdoor scenery      |
| verse               | to look, appear              |
| amarillo            | yellow                       |
| anaranjado          | orange (color)               |
| es tan hermoso      | it's so beautiful            |
| cambiar de color    | to change color              |
| el clima            | the climate, weather         |
| la época de frío    | the cold season / cold times |
| se pone más frío    | it gets colder               |
| cae nieve           | snow falls                   |
| ¿qué tan frío?      | how cold?                    |
| la chamarra         | the jacket                   |
| el suéter           | sweater                      |
| las montañas altas  | the high mountains           |
| el primer invierno  | the first winter             |
| no he visto         | I haven't seen               |

|        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Darren | Hola Adela, ¿cómo estás? |
|--------|--------------------------|

Hello Adela, how are you?

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| Adela | Hola Daren. |
|-------|-------------|

Hello Daren.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Darren | ¿Daren? No, no me llamo Daren, me llamo "Darren". |
|--------|---|

Daren? No, my name isn't Daren, my name is "Darren".

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Adela | Mira Daren, así es como te conocí. Yo no voy a cambiar, yo te voy a decir Daren y es Daren. |
|-------|---|

Look Daren, that's how I met you. I'm not going to change, I'm going to call you Daren and it's Daren.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Darren | Oye, ¿qué te parece la naturaleza? Qué lindos se ven los...los árboles, ¿no? Ya están de color amarillo, unos anaranjados, otros verdes. |
|--------|--|

Hey, what do you think of the scenery (nature)? How beautiful the...the trees look, right? They're already colored yellow, some orange, others green.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Adela | Me gusta, me recuerda allá en mi México. |
|-------|--|

I like it, it reminds me of back there in my Mexico.

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| Darren | En México. |
|--------|------------|

En Mexico.

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Darren | ¿De qué parte de México eres? |
|--------|-------------------------------|

What part of Mexico are you from?

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Adela | Soy de Michoacán. ¿Has oído de Michoacán? |
|-------|---|

I'm from Michoacán. Have you heard of Michoacán?

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| Darren | Mmm, no. |
|--------|----------|

Mmm, no.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Adela | Ay, es tan hermoso. Mira, en este tiempo también allá los árboles cambian de color, las ojas...y pues, cambia también, no...el clima no está muy frío, no está muy caliente. Está...está muy bien el...el clima. Aquí, siento que está un poquito frío. |
|-------|---|

Oh, it's so beautiful. You know, in this time over there the trees change color as well, the leaves...and well, it changes as well, no...the climate isn't very cold, it's not very hot. The...the climate is...is very nice. Here, I feel like it's a little cold.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Darren | Oh, sí y eso que todavía no viene la época de frío; que se pone mucho más frío. Y bueno, en algunos...aquí en algunas ciudades de...de Estados Unidos también cae nieve. |
|--------|--|

Oh, yes, and that's with the cold season not coming yet; that gets much colder. And well, in some... here in some cities of...of the United States snow falls too.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Adela | He escuchado. Pero, pláticame, ¿qué tan frío se pone aquí en este estado? |
|-------|---|

I've heard. But, tell me, how cold does it get here in this state?

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Darren | Se pone frío, frío, frío; que tienes que usar como dos, tres chamarras, dos, tres suéter. |
|--------|---|

It gets cold, cold, cold; that you have to use like two, three jackets, two, three sweaters.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Adela | Ay no, no me digas eso, porque allá en Michoacán, mira, con un suéter y listo. |
|-------|--|

Oh no, don't tell me that, because here in Michoacán, you know (look), with one sweater and ready (to go).

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Darren | Oye, ¿y allá en Michoacán, no cae nieve? |
|--------|--|

Hey, and over there in Michoacan, snow doesn't fall?

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Adela | No. Sólo en las montañas altas, pero, sabes, yo no he visto nieve. Esta...esta va a ser el primer invierno que voy a pasar aquí donde voy a ver la nieve. Espero que me vaya bien. |
|-------|--|

No. Just in the high mountains, but, you know, I haven't seen snow. This...this is going to be the first winter that I'm going to spend here where I'm going to see snow. I hope that it goes well.

## El Otoño, Part II

Speakers: Juan from Michoacán, México and Erika from Nayarit, México

Did you know that in most Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, snowfalls are quite a rare experience? Can you imagine seeing snow for the first time? Getting accustomed to cold weather for the first time can be a difficult experience. Have you started getting ready for winter? Hope you have plenty of warm clothes!

### Vocabulario

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| delgadito                  | thin, skinny                    |
| comprar                    | to buy                          |
| un abrigo                  | a coat                          |
| no estás acostumbrada      | you're not used to it (fem.)    |
| me estás poniendo nerviosa | you're making me nervous (fem.) |
| por lo que veo             | from what I can see             |
| caminar                    | to walk                         |
| a lo mejor                 | maybe, probably                 |
| me voy a regresar          | I'm going back                  |
| mostrar                    | to show                         |
| unas fotos                 | some photos                     |
| la temporada pasada        | last season                     |
| para que veas              | so that you can see             |
| la nieve                   | snow                            |
| me imagino                 | I imagine                       |
| en persona                 | in person                       |
| ir a esquiar               | to go skiing                    |
| divertido                  | fun                             |
| ventaja                    | advantage                       |
| disfrutar                  | to enjoy                        |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| convencer     | to convince      |
| me quedo aquí | I'm staying here |
| prevenir      | to prevent       |
| lamentar      | to regret        |
| disculpa      | excuse me        |

Adela ¿Entonces mi suéter no me va a ayudar para el frío?

So my sweater isn't going to help me for the cold?

Darren Bueno si es un suéter delgadito como ese que tienes, no te va a ayudar de mucho, ¿eh?

Well if it's a thin sweater like that one that you have, it's not going to help you much, eh?

Adela Oh no. ¿Y ahora? ¿Adónde iré a comprar otro suéter? ¿O necesitaría un abrigo?

Oh no. And now what? Where will I go to buy another sweater? Or would I need a coat?

Darren Yo te recomendaría dos abrigos. Si no estás acostumbrada, yo te recomendaría dos abrigos o tal vez dos chamarras.

I would recommend two coats. If you're not used to it, I would recommend two coats or maybe two jackets.

Adela Oh no. No me digas eso, ya me estás poniendo nerviosa.

Oh no. Don't tell me that, now you're making me nervous.

Darren Por lo que veo, nunca has estado en un clima tan frío, ¿verdad?

From what I see, you've never been in such a cold climate, right?

Adela No, México, Michoacán está muy bien el clima, muy rico, bien...

No, Mexico, Michoacan, the climate is very nice, very good, very...

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Adela | Uno puede caminar en la noche con su suéter y todo en la calle sin...sin la chamarra como dijiste o sin el abrigo. Sólo así, allí en la plaza caminar con el suéter. A lo mejor me voy a regresar a México. |
|-------|---|

Once can walk around at night with a sweater and all out in the street without...without the jacket like you said or without the coat. Just like this, there in the plaza walking around with the sweater. Maybe I'm going to go back to Mexico.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Darren | Mira si quieres te puedo mostrar unas fotos de la temporada pasada, para que veas como se ve la nieve. |
|--------|--|

Hey (look) if you want I can show you some pictures from last season, so that you see what snow looks like.

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| Adela | Muy bien. |
|-------|-----------|

Great.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Darren | Me imagino que no has visto la nieve en persona, ¿verdad? |
|--------|---|

I imagine that you've never seen snow in person, right?

|       |         |
|-------|---------|
| Adela | No, no. |
|-------|---------|

No, no.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Darren | Te puedo mostrar unas fotos de cuando yo fui a esquiar la...la temporada pasada. Es muy divertido. |
|--------|--|

I can show you some pictures of when I went skiing ...last season. It's really fun.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Adela | A esquiar, mira. Ya me está gustando la idea. |
|-------|---|

Skiing, wow (look). Now I'm liking the idea.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Darren | Claro, hay ventajas también de la nieve. Puedes disfrutar de ese clima de esa manera. |
|--------|---|

Of course, there are advantages of the snow as well. You can enjoy the weather in that way.



|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Adela | Mmm, mira, ya me convenciste. Me quedo aquí. Bueno, ¿sabes qué? Tengo que ir entonces a comprar el abrigo. |
|-------|--|

Mmm, you know (look), you've convinced me. I'm staying here. Alright, you know what? I have to go then to buy the coat.

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| Darren | ¿En este momento? |
|--------|-------------------|

Right at this moment?

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Darren | Oye pero este invierno no llega dentro de dos o tres meses. |
|--------|---|

Hey but this winter doesn't come for another (within) two or three months.

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Adela | Mira, más vale prevenir que lamentar. |
|-------|---------------------------------------|

Hey, it's better to be safe than sorry (prevent then regret).

|        |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Darren | Bueno, pues mucha suerte. |
|--------|---------------------------|

Alright, well lots of luck.

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Adela | Hasta luego Daren. |
|-------|--------------------|

See you later Daren.

|        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| Darren | Te dije, "Darren". |
|--------|--------------------|

I told you, "Darren".

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| Adela | Bueno, disculpa Darren. |
|-------|-------------------------|

Alright, excuse me "Darren".

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| Darren | Adiós Adela. |
|--------|--------------|

Bye Adela.

## ~ INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED ~

### Un poco de México (A little bit of Mexico)

Hablantes: Juan de Michoacán, México y Erika de Nayarit, México

Let's get to know a little more about the places where two of our new Mexican speakers come from. Let's ask them how they ended up in the United States and what they're homes were like in Mexico. How do you think it would be to move to a new country as a teenager?

#### Vocabulario

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ¿qué te parece si...? | how about if...?                |
| muy buena idea        | a very good idea                |
| contar                | to relate, to tell              |
| vegetación            | vegetation                      |
| montañas              | mountains                       |
| los estados vecinos   | the neighboring states          |
| el rosario            | the rosary                      |
| me crié               | I was raised                    |
| los alrededores       | the outskirts, the surroundings |
| la playa              | the beach                       |
| una etapa             | a stage, phase                  |
| decidieron            | they decided                    |
| moverse               | to move                         |
| un negocio            | a business                      |
| leche                 | milk                            |
| huevos                | eggs                            |
| verduras              | vegetables                      |
| funcionar             | to work, to function            |
| iniciar               | to start up                     |
| oportunidad           | opportunity                     |

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| buscar                 | to look for, to search for |
| un mejor futuro        | a better future            |
| el idioma              | the language               |
| llegar                 | to arrive, to get to       |
| obstáculos principales | main obstacles             |

Juan      ¿Qué te parece si empe...si empezamos esta conversación hablando acerca de México.

How about if we beg...if we begin this conversation talking about Mexico.

Erika      Me parece muy buena idea.

That sounds like a very good idea.

Juan      ¿Por qué no les cuentas a los amigos y amigas de dónde eres tú o de qué ciudad eres tú?

Why don't you tell our friends and lady-friends where you are from or what city you are from?

Erika      Bueno, yo nací en el estado de Nayarit, México. Un...un pueblo llamado el Rosario, Nayarit. Ahm, por cierto, es muy bonito, ahm, hay mucha vegetación, montañas, mucho agua. Y Juan, ¿tú de qué estado de México naciste?

Well, I was born in the state of Nayarit, México. A...a town called the Rosary, Nayarit. Um, by the way, it's very pretty, um, there is a lot of vegetation, mountains, a lot of water And John, what state of México were you born from?

Juan      Bueno, te cuento que soy del estado de Michoacán. Y la ciudad, bueno, nací en la ciudad de Zamorra, pero me crié en los alrededores, en un pueblito cerca de Zamorra.

Well, I can tell you that I am from the state of Michoacán. and the city, well, I was born in the city of Zamorra, but I was raised on the outskirts, in a small town closet o Zamorra.

Erika      Y ¿Cómo es Michoacán? Plátame un poco de Michoacán.

And what is Michoacán like? Tell me a little about Michoacán.

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Juan | Bueno, no es por exagerar, pero es un estado muy hermoso. En ese estado tiene playas, también, mucha vegetación, muchas montañas. |
|------|---|

Well, (it's) not to exaggerate, but it's a very beautiful state. In that state it has beaches, also, a lot of vegetation, a lot of mountains.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | Y Juan, ¿cómo tus papás vinieron acá a Estados Unidos? |
|-------|--|

And John, who did your parents come here to the United States?

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Juan | Bueno, mire, les cuento que mi familia estaba pasando por una etapa económica, pues, muy difícil en ese...en ese entonces cuando...cuando decidieron moverse a los Estados Unidos, ehm, me recuerdo que tenían un negocio, era como una tipo, un tipo tienda donde vendían diferentes productos ya sea de leche, huevo, verdura. |
|------|--|

Well, you know, I can tell you that my family was going through a, well, very difficult economic phase in that... in that time (then) when... when they decided to move to the United States, um, I remember that they had a business, it was like a type, a store-type where they sold different products whether it was milk, egg, vegetable (products).

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Juan | Pero, el negocio no estaba funcionando muy bien entonces, bueno, como no había mucha oportunidad en esa área para iniciar un buen negocio o...o para otras cosas, entonces mi familia decidió moverse a los Estados Unidos para buscar un mejor futuro como muchas familias lo han hecho, ¿no? |
|------|--|

But, the business wasn't working very well so, well, since there wasn't much opportunity in that area to start up a good business or...or for other things, then my family decided to move to the United States to look for a better future like many families have done it, right?

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | Claro. Igual la mía, ¿no? Y, y al llegar acá a los Estados Unidos, ¿fue difícil para ti? |
|-------|--|

Of course. Just like mine, right? And, and when you got here to the United States, was it difficult for you?

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Juan | Claro. Y, bueno, claro. Especialmente el idioma, no, que llegas y no sabes qué exactamente significan las palabras. |
|------|---|

Of course. And, well, of course. Especially the language, you know, you arrive and you don't know what exactly the words mean.

## Un poco de México, Parte II

Hablantes: Juan de Michoacán, México y Erika de Nayarit, México

This month all of our speakers originate from Mexico. If you listen closely, however, you may notice some differences in their accents. Juan and Erika both moved to the United States when they were teenagers. Michael grew up speaking Spanish in Texas, while Olegario (Lalo) moved to the U.S. as an adult. See if you can pick out any differences.

### Vocabulario

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| la cultura            | the culture                        |
| celebrar              | to celebrate                       |
| las costumbres        | the customs                        |
| vender                | to sell                            |
| al aire libre         | in the open air                    |
| juntarse              | to get together, to gather         |
| con frecuencia        | often (with frequency)             |
| fruta                 | fruit                              |
| nieve                 | ice cream (snow)                   |
| un ambiente diferente | a different atmosphere/environment |
| estoy de acuerdo      | I agree                            |
| el oyente             | the listener                       |
| integrantes           | members                            |
| el violín             | the violin                         |
| la guitarra           | the guitar                         |
| la trompeta           | the trumpet                        |
| las maracas           | the maracas                        |
| alegres               | cheerful, lively                   |

|       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| Erika | ¿Y la cultura? |
|-------|----------------|

And the culture?

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Juan | Claro es muy diferente. Por ejemplo haciendo comparación, este, en los diferentes días que se celebran, ¿no? Por ejemplo, aquí, un día de la independencia es un...un cuatro de julio, ¿no? En México, el independencia es, este, el día quince de setiembre. Entonces hay muchas, eh, celebraciones, hay muchas cul...hay muchas diferencias en la cultura, en las costumbres, especialmente en la comida te cuento también. |
|------|---|

Of course it's very different. For example making a comparison, um, en the different days that are celebrated, you know? For example, here, one day of the Independence is a... a fourth of July, right? In México, the Independence is, um, the day of the fifteenth of September. So there are a lot of, uh, celebrations, there is a lot of cul...there are a lot of differences in the cultura, in the customs, especially in the food I can tell you as well.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Erika | Hmm. Y la comida, como, ¿como qué es diferente? |
|-------|---|

Hmm. And the food, like, like what is different?

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Juan | Ah la costumbre, ¿no? Tú sabes que en México hay muchas, eh, restaurantes, o hay muchos negocios que venden la comida al aire libre. Puedes ir, por ejemplo, a una plaza, una plaza es un área donde...donde muchos negocios se juntan y allí pueden vender ya sea sus productos, la comida. Es algo que aquí en Estados Unidos no ves con frecuencia. |
|------|--|

Ah the costum, you know? You know that in México there are a lot of, uh, restaurants, or there are a lot of businesses that sell food in the open air. You can go, for example, to a plaza, a plaza is an area where... where a lot of businesses get together and there they can sell either their products, food. It's something that here in the United States you don't see frequently.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | Y en Michoacán, hablando, verdad, ahorita de comida, ¿qué es lo que vendían en la plaza? |
|-------|--|

And in Michoacan, speaking, right, now about food, what is it that they sell in the plaza?

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Juan | Bueno, te cuento que diferentes comidas, ya sea algo...una comida muy típica sería los tacos, las tortas. La torta era..es como un...un pan en el cual ya sea...lo pueden preparar con diferentes carnes. |
|------|---|

Well, I can tell you that different foods, whether it's something... a very traditional food would be tacos, tortas. The torta was...is like a...a bread on which it might... you can prepare it with different meats.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Juan | Y muchas otras comidas que se venden al aire libre, o fruta, o nieve, es un ambiente diferente aquí, no, en comparación. |
|------|--|

And many other foods that are sold in the open air, either fruit, or ice cream, it's a different atmosphere here, you know, in comparison.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | Pero acá en los Estados Unidos hay tacos, ¿no? |
|-------|--|

But here in the United States there are tacos, right?

|      |                          |
|------|--------------------------|
| Juan | Sí, pero no son iguales. |
|------|--------------------------|

Yes, but they're not the same.

|       |                               |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| Erika | Ah, estoy de acuerdo contigo. |
|-------|-------------------------------|

Oh, I agree with you.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | Oye, y de la música, ¿qué te parece la música? |
|-------|--|

Hey, and about music, how do you like music?

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Juan | ¿Sabes qué? Mi música favorita es la del mariachi. |
|------|--|

You know what? My favorite music is the mariachi kind.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | ¿Mariachi? La mía también. ¿Por qué no lo explicamos a nuestro amigo oyente? |
|-------|--|

Mariachi? Mine too. Why don't you explain it to our listener friend.

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Juan | Bueno, les explicamos que un mariachi es una banda de varios integrantes en el cual los diferentes instrumentos que se tocan es el violín, las guitarras. ¿Qué otro...qué otro instrumento Erika? [La trompeta] Correcto la trompeta, la... |
|------|---|

Well, I can explain to them that a mariachi is a band of several members in which the different instruments that are played are the violin, the guitars. What other...what other instrument Erica? [The trumpet.] Correct the trumpet, the...

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Erika | Las maracas. También nos conocen como muy alegres porque nos gusta la música, ¿no es cierto? |
|-------|--|

The maracas. They also know us as very cheerful because we like music, isn't that right?

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| Juan | Sí. |
|------|-----|

Yes.

~ ADVANCED ~

## Conocer a Michael y Lalo

Hablantes: Miguel de Texas y Olegario de Mexicali, México

Let's ask a few questions of two of my favorite speakers from Mexico. They always have some interesting things to say. Let's ask them about their families, where they grew up, and how long they have lived in the United States.

### Vocabulario

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| quizás               | maybe                           |
| grabaciones          | recordings                      |
| ojalá                | hopefully                       |
| platicar             | to chat, to tell                |
| ti mismo             | yourself                        |
| de mi persona        | about me personally (my person) |
| nací                 | I was born                      |
| venirse              | to come                         |
| la frontera          | the border                      |
| de ahora en adelante | from now on                     |
| emigré               | I immigrated                    |
| trabajando duro      | working hard                    |
| hace mucho calor     | it's very hot (weather)         |
| el menor             | the youngest                    |
| viejito              | a little old                    |
| empezar              | to begin                        |
| no se crea           | just kidding (don't believe it) |
| el último            | the last one                    |



|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Michael | Buenas tardes, yo soy Maycol Lujan. O como en español quizás algunos sepan, ah, mi nombre es, ah, Miguel. Ahm, Miguel Lujan. Y aquí estoy con mi amigo Lalo, vamos a hacer unas grabaciones, ah, para unos cursos en español. Ojalá que les guste. Ahm, Lalo, ¿cómo estás? |
|---------|--|

Good afternoon, I'm Michael Lujan. Or like in Spanish maybe some might know, uh, my name is, uh, Miguel. Ahm, Miguel Lujan. And I'm here with my friend Lalo, we're going to do some recordings, uh, for some Spanish courses. Hopefully you like it. Um, Lalo, how are you?

|      |                                    |
|------|------------------------------------|
| Lalo | Bien, bien Maycol. ¿Tú cómo estás? |
|------|------------------------------------|

Good, good Michael. How are you?

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Michael | Pues aquí estoy. Bueno, Lalo, a ver, ¿por qué no se...empezamos y nos, ah, platicas un poquito de ti mismo. |
|---------|---|

Well here I am. Well, Lalo, let's see, why don't you...we begin and you, uh, tell us a little about yourself.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Lalo | Pues de mi, de mi persona, ¿qué te puedo platicar? Pues yo soy mexicano. |
|------|--|

Well about me, about me personally (about my person), what can I tell you? Well I am Mexican.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Lalo | Yo nací en el estado de Durango, México. Eh, me vine a los ocho años de Durango al estado de Mexicali que está en la frontera con Calexico, California. Y de los ocho años en adelante, allí estuve viviendo toda mi vida hasta los treinta y ocho años más o menos. Y de allí emigré para acá con mis hermanos que ya tienen aquí más de treinta años ellos viviendo. |
|------|--|

I was born in the state of Durango, Mexico Eh, I came at eight years old from Durango to the state of Mexicali that is on the border with Calexico, California. And from eight years old on, I was there living my whole life until about thirty eight years old. And from there I immigrated over here with my brothers that already have been living here more than thirty years.

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Michael | Sí. |
|---------|-----|

Yes.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Lalo | Y este, aquí estamos, trabajando duro. Y te digo toda mi, mi vida mayormente la hice en Mexicali. Es la frontera con Calexico donde regularmente o siempre hace mucho calor, siempre en el verano. |
|------|--|

And um, here we are, working hard. And I can tell you all my, my life I made it for the most part in Mexicali. It's the border with Calexico where regularly or always it is really hot, always in the summer.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Michael | ¿Y usted dice que tiene hermanos aquí, verdad? |
|---------|--|

And you say that you have brothers here, right?

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Lalo | Sí aquí tengo una hermana y cuatro hermanos más. Ellos aquí ya tienen bastantes años. |
|------|---|

Yes here I have a sister and four more brothers. They have been here quite a lot of years.

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| Michael | ¿Usted es el menor? |
|---------|---------------------|

You are the youngest?

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Lalo | Soy el número once. Fuimos doce. El más grande de mis hermanos ahorita anda como en sesenta y cuatro años [ah-jah], ya está viejito. |
|------|--|

I'm the number eleven. There were twelve of us. The oldest of my siblings is now like about seventy four years old [uh-huh], he's pretty old.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Michael | Fíjese yo sí soy el menor de todos. Yo vengo de una familia de cinco. Somos dos hombres. Mi mamá empezó con un varón y terminó con un varón--un varonzote como yo--no, no se crea. Yo fui el último. Tengo tres hermanas. |
|---------|---|

You know I am the youngest of everyone. I come from a family of five. There are two boys. My mom started with a guy and ended with a man-- a real man like me--no, just kidding. I was the last one. I have three sisters.

## ¿ El México Antiguo

Hablantes: Miguel de Texas y Olegario de Mexicali, México

Let's take a trip down memory lane with Lalo as he tells us about what it was like growing up in a secluded village in old México. What do you think it would be like living without cars and technology? Lalo's childhood seems quite different from how many kids are raised today. What do you think his experiences taught him?

### Vocabulario

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| pueblito              | small town, village           |
| grabar                | to record                     |
| memorias              | memories                      |
| vivencias             | experiences                   |
| caballo               | horse                         |
| burro                 | donkey                        |
| carreta               | cart, wagon                   |
| jalar                 | to pull                       |
| la siembra            | farming, crop-raising         |
| el maíz               | corn                          |
| el frijol             | beans                         |
| el arroz              | rice                          |
| árboles frutales      | fruit trees                   |
| he sabido             | I've heard, found out (known) |
| está cambiado         | it's changed                  |
| vivíamos de la tierra | we lived off the land         |
| la agricultura        | agriculture                   |

|         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Michael | Este, plátícame un poco de Durango. |
|---------|-------------------------------------|

Let's see, um, tell me a Little about Durango.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Lalo | Sí, mira, yo soy de un pueblo, un pueblito. Me vine a los ocho años, pero de lo que recuerdo, cuando yo ya tenía tres, cuatro años ya empieza uno a grabarse las memorias de las vivencias que uno tiene. Y, pues allí no había carros, allí no había carros. Estoy hablando desde hace como, treinta y ocho, cuarenta años casi. Eh, allí no había carros, había nada más caballos, había burros, había carretas que jalaban los caballos. Y este, y nosotros vivíamos de lo que se llama, eh, la siembra, la siembra lo que siembran en la tierra. Entonces allí sembrábamos maíz, frijol, el arroz, hasta árboles de...frutales. Y de eso vivíamos. |
|------|--|

Yes, you know, I'm from a town, a small town. I came at eight years old, but from what I remember, when I was three, four years old one starts to record memories of the life-experiences that one has. And, well there weren't cars there, there weren't cars there. I am talking from like, thirty-eight, forty years ago almost. Uh, there weren't cars there, there were only horses, there were donkeys, there were carts that the horses pulled. And um, and we were living of what is called, uh, farming, farming what you sow in the earth. So there we farmed corn, vean, and rice, even fruit tres. And we lived off that.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| Lalo | Y ahorita, he sabido, no he ido. No he ido de visita. He sabido que ya está muy cambiado. Ya hay teléfonos, ya hay carros. |
|------|--|

And now, I've found out, I haven't gone. I haven't gone to visit. I've found out that it is very changed. Now there are telephones, now there are cars.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Michael | Entonces ustedes literalmente vivían de la tierra. [Lalo: De la tierra] ¿Verdad que sí? |
|---------|---|

So you literally lived off the earth. [Lalo: of the earth] Right?

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Lalo | De la siembra, pues. De la agricultura. |
|------|---|

Off of farming, well. Off of agriculture.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Michael | De la agricultura, fíjese como en tiempos antiguos, yo recuerdo escuchar a mis abuelos que platicaban así, verdad, de que, este, en...en los tiempos de ellos hace muchos años atrás, pues así era. No había la facilidad, me imagino que para ustedes era...era mucho más difícil. No podían ir, como de aquí a la vuelta de la esquina, verdad, y llegar a la farmacia o llegar a la Walmart, verdad, a comprar zanahorias o lo que se te antojaba, o algo para hacer un pico de gallo, [Oh no Maycol] verdad. |
|---------|--|

Off of agriculture, you know like in ancient times, I remember hearing my grandparents that they talked like that, right, about that, um, in...in their times many years ago, well it was like that. there wasn't the ease, I imagine that for you it was... it was much more difficult. You couldn't go, like from here around the corner, right, and get to the pharmacy, or get to the Walmart, right, and buy carrots or whatever you felt like, or something to make a rooster's beak (salsa), [Oh no Michael] right.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Michael | Era más difícil me imagino. Pues fíjese que...pero ahora está aquí. Qué bueno que está con nosotros aquí y que estamos juntos. Así nos hemos hecho amigos y pues casi familia, ¿verdad? |
|---------|---|

I was more difficult I imagine. Well just think that...but now you're here. How nice that you are with us here and that we are together. So we have become friends and well almost family, right?

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| Lalo | Casi familia. |
|------|---------------|

Almost family.

|         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Michael | Sí. Así es, fíjese, así es. |
|---------|-----------------------------|

Yes, that's right, just think, that's right.

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Lalo | Sí. Fíjate que sí me ha ido bien. No me quejo. He tenido trabajo. Y, gracias a Dios, me ha ido bien. Pues estamos echándole ganas. Y pues, cuando uno le echa ganas, le pides a Dios a que te ayude, te va bien, te va bien. Todo depende de la mentalidad con que uno se maneja. |
|------|---|

Yes. Go figure that yes it has gone well for me. I don't complain. I've had work. And, thanks to God, It has gone well for me. Well we are doing our best. And well, when one does his best, you ask God to help you, it goes well, it goes well. It all depends on your mindset that you handle yourself with.