



Personal Proficiency Trainer

Spring Series
March of 2010

Complete Transcript
and Translation

Edición de Marzo -

¡Ya Viene La Primavera!

¡Hola amigos, qué lindo día! Hello friends, what a lovely day! ¡Bienvenidos a Marzo! Welcome to March! March is one of my favorite months, although I may be biased, since it is my birthday month. But it also contains the vernal equinox, when the tilt of the Earth is inclined neither away from nor towards the Sun--bringing us the first day of spring! Springtime is my favorite season--the world always seems so bright and alive after the long winter. Spring's vibrancy infuses me with the vigor to follow my dreams and reaffirm my goals. One of which is to continue studying Spanish!

Me da gusto presentarles a la edición de Marzo del PPT. I am pleased to introduce you to the March Edition of the PPT. We will continue our focus on Spanish from Mexico with five distinct speakers of Mexican descent. In our beginning conversations, we will practice simple getting-to-know you questions with Enrique from Mexico City. We will also learn about a very fun and wet holiday that just took place in many Latin American countries--Carnival! Then, in our travel features we will learn how to ask for directions in Tijuana and then grab a taxi to our hotel.

In our advanced conversations we will ask one of our married Mexican couples to tell us a little about how they met. Then we'll talk with Miguel and Olegario about the jobs they worked when they were younger, including a tortilla shop and picking cotton. Finally they will tell us some farewell advice about learning Spanish.

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!

CONVERSATIONS:

~ BEGINNING ~

Conocer a Enrique (Meet Enrique)

Speakers: Enrique and Raquel from Mexico City.

Have you had the chance to practice Spanish with anyone new lately? One of the most important keys to learning a new language is to overcome our natural inhibitions and timidity. Go out of your way to start conversations in Spanish with anyone you meet whether they be a native Spanish speaker or someone who is just learning like you. Let's do a practice one with our friend Enrique from Mexico. Practice the questions that Raquel asks out loud until you are comfortable with them.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
mucho gusto	nice to meet you
el Distrito Federal	the Federal District
la capital de México	the capital of Mexico
muy interesante	very interesting
¿tienes mucho tiempo acá?	have you been here long?
tengo dos años	I've been here for 2 years
¿qué extrañas de México?	what do you miss about Mexico?
la comida	the food
muy ricos	very tasty (good)
¿a qué te dedicas?	what do you do for a living?
suenas	it sounds
¿vives sólo?	do you live alone?
mi esposa	my wife
tenemos una hija	we have a daughter
está chiquita (ella)	she is little
¿te gusta vivir aquí?	do you like living here
la gente	the people
una buena experiencia	a good experience
¿vienes de una familia muy grande?	do you come from a very big family?
una hermana	a sister
es más chica que tú (ella)	she is younger (littler) than you
espero verte pronto	I hope to see you soon

Raquel	Hola, ¿cómo estás? Mucho gusto. ¿Cómo te llamas?
--------	--

Hello, how are you? Nice to meet you. What's your name?

Enrique	Hola, ¿cómo estás? Mi nombre es Enrique.
---------	--

Hello, how are you? My name is Enrique.

Raquel	Oh, mucho gusto Enrique. Y ¿de dónde eres?
--------	--

Oh, nice to meet you Enrique. And where are you from?

Enrique	Yo soy de México, D.F.
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I am from D.F., Mexico.

Raquel	Ah, D.F. ¿Qué es D.F.?
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Oh, D.F.. What is D.F.?

Enrique	D.F. es el Distrito Federal. Es la capital de México.
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D.F. is the Federal District. It's the capital of Mexico.

Raquel	Ah, muy interesante. Y ¿cuántos años tienes?
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Oh, very interesting. And how old are you? (how many years do you have)

Enrique	Yo tengo treinta y ocho años.
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I am (I have) thirty eight years old.

Raquel	¿Y tienes mucho tiempo, eh, acá en Estados Unidos?
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And have you been here long (do you have a lot of time here) in the United States?

Enrique	Solamente tengo dos años.
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I've only been here (I only have) two years.

Raquel	Ah, ¿y qué extrañas de México?
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Oh, and what do you miss about Mexico?

Enrique	Yo creo que la comida.
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I think the food.

Raquel ¿Y qué de la comida?

And what about the food?

Enrique Bueno, yo creo que los tacos.

Well, I think the tacos.

Raquel Sí. Muy ricos los tacos. Y ¿a qué te dedicas?

Yes. The tacos (are) very good. And what do you do for a living? (to what do you dedicate yourself)

Enrique Yo soy ingeniero.

I am an engineer.

Raquel Ah, suena muy interesante. ¿Y está...vives sólo?

Oh, sounds very interesting. And are you...do you live by yourself.

Enrique Vivo con mi esposa, soy casado.

I live with my wife, I'm married.

Raquel Ah ¿y tienen hijos?

Oh, and do you have children?

Enrique Sí, tenemos una hija.

yes, we have a daughter.

Raquel Ah ¿y cuántos años tiene?

Oh, and how old is she? (how many years does she have)

Enrique Nueve años.

Nine years.

Raquel Ah, está chiquita. ¿Qué...y cómo se llama?

Oh she is little. What...and what's her name?

Enrique Se llama Xina.

Her name is Gina.

Raquel Oh, qué bonito nombre. ¿Y te gusta vivir aquí en Estados Unidos?

Oh, what a pretty name. and do you like living here in the United States?

Enrique Sí, me gusta mucho.

Yes, I like it a lot.

Raquel ¿Qué es lo que más te ha gustado de vivir en Estados Unidos?

What is it that you have liked most about living in the United States?

Enrique Yo creo que la gente.

I think the people.

Raquel Ah-jah. ¿Has tenido buena experiencia?

Uh-huh. You've had a good experience?

Enrique Sí, mi experiencia ha sido muy buena.

yes, my experience has been very good.

Raquel ¿Y vienes de una familia muy grande?

And do you come from a big family?

Enrique No, nada más tengo una hermana.

No, I just have one sister.

Raquel Una hermana. ¿Y es más chica o más grande que tú?

A sister. And is she younger (littler) or older (bigger) than you?

Enrique Es más chica. Ella tiene treinta y dos años.

She is younger (littler). She is thirty three years old. (has 33 years)

Raquel Ah, ¿y...y vive en México también?

Oh, and...and she lives in Mexico as well?

Enrique Sí, ella vive en México.

Yes, she lives in Mexico.

Raquel ¿Y tus papás?

And your parents?

Enrique Mis papás igual. Son de México y también viven en México.

My parents likewise. They are from Mexico and they also live in Mexico.

Raquel	Bueno, me dio mucho gusto conocerte.
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Well, I was very pleased (it gave me much pleasure) to meet you.

Enrique	Igual. Fue un placer conocerte. Espero verte pronto Raquel.
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Likewise. It was a pleasure meeting you. I hope to see you soon Raquel.

El Carnaval en Bolivia (Carnival in Bolivia)

Speakers: Tatiana and Antonina from La Paz, Bolivia.

Although Carnival is a festival that is celebrated all over the world, I think the best celebrations happen in Latin-America (no offence New Orleans). Let's talk to our friend Celeste from Bolivia and find out a little about how it is celebrated in Bolivia where parades run from morning until late at night, 18 hours a day, for several days before Ash Wednesday. Meanwhile throughout the country celebrations are held involving traditional rhythms and water parties. Sounds like fun!

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
acabo de hablar con ellos	I just spoke with them
¿qué te cuentan?	what do they tell you? (how are things?)
me acaban de decir (ellos)	they just told me
en esta fecha	on this date
es muy divertida	it's very fun
mojar	to get wet
globos de agua	water balloons
un desfile	a parade
hay mucha diversión	there is a lot of fun
bailamos	we dance
jugamos	we play
reímos	we laugh
extraño eso	I miss that
inflar	to inflate, to fill up
tirar	to throw
bailes	dances
esa época del año	that time of year
participar	to participate
joven	young / a young person
salen a las calles (ellos)	they go out on the streets
saltar	to jump
reina del Carnaval	Carnival Queen
se visten como quieran (ellos)	they dress however they like
ropa	clothes
estás bienvenida	you are welcome (fem.)

Amy	Celeste, ¿hablaste con tus papás?
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Celeste, did you speak with your parents?

Celeste	Sí, acabo de hablar con ellos.
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Yes, I just spoke with them.

Amy	¿Y qué te cuentan? ¿Cómo están ellos?
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and what do they tell you? (how are things with them?) How are they?

Celeste	Ellos...bueno, ellos están bien, pero me acaban de decir que ya llega el Carnaval a Bolivia.
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They...well, they are good, but they just told me that Carnival is coming to Bolivia.

Amy	¿El Carnaval? ¿Qué es Carnaval?
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Carnival? What is Carnival?

Celeste	El Carnaval es una celebración que tenemos una vez al año en esta fecha en febrero que es muy divertida.
---------	--

Carnival is a celebration that we have once a year on this date in February that is very fun.

Amy	¡Guau, cuéntame!
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Wow, tell me (about it)!

Celeste	Nosotros podemos mojar a las personas como queramos. Usamos globos de agua y les mojamos. Podemos...hay un desfile, hay personas, hay mucha comida, mucha diversión, bailamos, jugamos, reímos, y extraño eso.
---------	--

We can get people wet however we want. We use water-balloons and we get them wet. We can...there is a parade, there are people, there is a lot of food, a lot of fun, we dance, we play, we laugh, and I miss that.

Amy	Oh, yo creo que sí extrañas eso, pero podemos jugar aquí también Carnavales.
-----	--

Oh, I think that you do miss that, but we can play Carnivals here as well.

Celeste	No, porque en Carnaval tienes que mojarte; las personas inflan globos con agua y los...les tiran a otras personas. Y eso es divertido porque no sólo...no solamente estás mojada, sino que también tú puedes mojar a otras personas. Y también hay un desfile y hay bailes que sólo puedes ver en esa época del año.
---------	--

No, because in Carnival you have to get wet; people inflate balloons with water and ...throw them at other people. And that is fun because not only... not only are you wet, but also you can get other people wet. And also there is a parade and there are dances that you can only see at that time of year.

Amy	¿Qué es un desfile?
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What is a parade?

Celeste	Las personas que quieren participar son personas jóvenes que van, salen a las calles con una banda de música, bailan y muestran a otras personas sus talentos. Pueden cantar, pueden bailar, o también pueden saltar; y hay una reina del Carnaval.
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The people that want to participate are young people that go, go out on the streets with a music band, they dance and they show other people their talents. They can sing, they can dance, or also they can jump; and there is a queen of the Carnival.

Amy	Ah, es como algo que tenemos nosotros aquí el Cuatro de Julio.
-----	--

Oh, it's like something that we have here the Fourth of July.

Celeste	Ah, no. Bueno, sí, es un desfile que...la diferencia es que en esta desfile es informal. Las personas se visten como quieran, usualmente con ropas que puede mojar porque algunas personas usan globos con tinta. O sea, puedes estar verde, roja, o azul.
---------	--

Uh, no. Well, yes, exactly, it's a parade that... the difference is that in this parade it's informal. The people dress however they want, usually with clothes that you can get wet because some people use balloons with dye. I mean, you can be green, red, or blue.

Amy	¡Guau, qué divertido! Yo quiero ir allá. ¿Cuándo vas a ir conmigo Celeste?
-----	--

Wow, how fun! I want to go there. When are you going to go with me Celeste?

Celeste	Cuándo tú quieras, puedes venir, estás bienvenida.
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Whenever you want, you can come, you are welcome.

~ INTERMEDIATE ~

Un Viaje a Tijuana (A Trip to Tijuana)

Speakers: Enrique and Raquel from Mexico City.

Have you ever been on vacation to a Spanish-speaking country? One popular place to go on short tours or day-trips is Tijuana, since it is just across the border in southern California, a short drive from San Diego. One thing that is very easy to do when you are on vacation in an unfamiliar place is to lose your way. If you get lost as easily as I do, then you had better learn to ask for directions. Especially in Latin countries, the people are very friendly and will be happy to point you in the right direction and tell you about the area. Let's find some help getting around in Tijuana.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
oiga	hey
no le molesta	it won't bother you
unas direcciones	some directions
ando buscando	I'm looking for
centro turístico	tourist center
podría visitar (Ud.)	you could visit
lo más famoso	the most famous part
todos los turistas	all the tourists
la tienda	the store
recuerdos	souvenirs
le aseguro (a Ud.)	I assure you
es bien fácil	it's really easy
vas por esta calle	you go down this street
todo derecho	straight ahead
llegas a la esquina	you get to the corner
doblas a la derecha	you turn right
a la izquierda	to the left
hay varios	there are various
algo así	something like that
venir en carro	to come by car (to drive)
rumbo	around, in the area of
hacia	toward

fría	cold (fem.)
la langosta	the lobster
un letrero	a sign
un poblado pequeño	a small village
suerte	luck
disfrutar	to enjoy

Henry Mi nombre es Henry. ¿Usted cómo se llama?

My name is Henry. What's your name?

Lupita Hola, mucho gusto, Henry, yo me llamo Lupita.

Hello, nice to meet you, Henry, my name is Lupita.

Henry Mucho gusto, Lupita. Mire, le presento a mi esposa, ella es Michelle.

Nice to meet you, Lupita. Here, let me introduce you (I present you) to my wife, she is Michelle.

Lupita Mucho gusto, Michelle.

Nice to meet you, Michelle.

Henry Y esta es mi hija Dora.

And this is my daughter Dora.

Lupita Oh, ay qué bonita.

Oh, ah how pretty.

Henry Gracias. Oiga, eh, ¿no le molesta si me puede dar unas direcciones? Ando buscando algún centro turístico.

Thanks. Hey, uh, it won't bother you if you can give me some directions? I am looking for some tourist center.

Lupita Ay no, claro que sí, con mucho gusto. Mmm...pues aquí lo que, eh, podría visitar que es lo más famoso y a todos los turistas les gusta ir es, eh, La Revolución. Hay muchas tiendas de recuerdos.

Oh no, of course I can, with (much) pleasure. Mmm...well here what you, uh, could visit that is the most famous and all the tourists like to go (to) is, uh, The Revolution. There are lots of souvenir shops.

Henry	Eso es lo que ando buscando, una tienda donde puedo comprar recuerdos.
-------	--

That is what I am looking for, a store where I can buy souvenirs.

Lupita	Oh, allí les aseguro, vas a encontrar lo que ocupas.
--------	--

Oh, there I assure you, you're going to find what you need.

Henry	¿Cómo puedo hacer para llegar allí?
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How can I (what can I do to) get there?

Lupita	Ahm, es...es bien fácil. Eh, te vas por esta calle, todo derecho, llegas a la esquina, doblas a tu mano derecha, y después tres cuadas a la izquierda, y allí llegas a La Revolución.
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Um, it's...it's really easy. Uh, you go down this street, straight ahead, you get to the corner, you turn to your right (hand), and after three blocks to the left, and there you'll get to The Revolution.

Henry	¿Hay algún restaurant rico por allí?
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Is there any good (tasty) restaurant around there?

Lupita	Sí. Allí hay varios. Incluso está uno que se llama Guadalajara y allí es típica comida mexicana.
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Yes. There are several there. there is even one called Guadalajara and there it's traditional Mexican food.

Henry	Algo así ando buscando. ¿Y, eh, alguna playa cerca?
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Something like that I am looking for. And, uh, any beach close by?

Lupita	Eh, bueno ¿sí...sí vienen en carro?
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Uh, well you do...do come in a car?

Henry	Claro.
-------	--------

Of course.

Lupita	Si vienen en carro, podrían ir a visitar a Rosarito. Es cerca, es rumbo al sur. Y allí hay playas muy bonitas, y también en Ensenada.
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If you come in a car, you could go to visit Rosarito. It's close by, it's down around the south. And there are very pretty beaches there, and also in Ensenada.

Henry ¿Es muy grande la playa?

Is the beach very big?

Lupita Sí, es...es, ehm, hacia el sur es el Pacífico, y allí es...es fría, pero muy bonita.

Yes, it's...it's, um, toward the south is the Pacific, and there it's...it's cold, but very pretty.

Henry De seguro, va a estar muy bonito. ¿Queda muy lejos de aquí?

Certainly, it's going to be very pretty. Is it very far away from here?

Lupita Eh, no, como a cuarenta minutos más o menos y eh...también hay muchos restaurantes y es muy...rumbo a Ensenada, se come la langosta. ¿Les gusta la langosta?

Uh, no, like forty minutes about and also there are a lot of restaurants and it's very...down around Ensenada, they eat lobster. do you all like lobster?

Henry Sí nos gusta mucho. ¿Hay algún lugar donde me puede recomendar?

Yes we like it a lot. Is there some place where you can recommend?

Lupita Sí, eh, vas a ver un letrero donde dice Puerto Nuevo, y allí es un pobla...poblado pequeño, y allí hay varios restaurancitos donde vend...donde sirven la langosta muy rica.

Yes, uh, you're going to see a sign where it says New Port, and there it's a... small village, and there are several little restaurants there where they sell...where they serve very good lobster.

Henry ¿Cualquier de esos restaurants son buenos?

Any of those restaurants are good?

Lupita Sí, allí es muy rico.

Yes, it's very good there.

Henry Voy a tener que probarlo.

I'm going to have to try it.

Lupita	Sí, pues te deseo mucha suerte y gusto conocer a tu familia. Qué bueno que están disfrutando aquí de nuestro México.
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Yes, well I wish you a lot of luck and nice meeting your family. How nice that you are enjoying our Mexico here.

Henry	Gracias por ayudarme.
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Thanks for helping me.

Lupita	Es un placer.
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It's a pleasure.

Henry	Hasta luego.
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See you later.

Lupita	Mucho gusto.
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Nice to meet you.

Tomar un Taxi (Taking a Taxi)

Speakers: Mitchel from Columbia and German from Michoacán, Mexico.

Another experience that you will inevitably encounter while traveling is taking a taxi. Let's see if we can find catch one to take us back to our hotel. On the way, we might as well ask him to tell us a little about the area--places we would like to visit and activities we might like to do. We can make a new friend and practice some Spanish along the way.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
súbase	hop in (get up in)
¿de dónde vienes?	where are you (do you come) from?
la ciudad	the city
lugares interesantes	interesting places
¿queda muy lejos?	is it very far away?
te puedo llevar	I can take you
conocer la playa	to see the beach
adonde tú quieras	wherever you want
está muy cerca	it's very close
soltero	single, not married
la disco	the dance club
divertirse	to have fun
te la recomiendo	I recommend it to you
el mar	the sea
los botes	the boats
¿me pueden sacar a pescar?	can they take me out fishing?
muy barato	very cheap
cobran mucho	they charge a lot
un yate	a yacht
te va a costar mucho	it's going to cost you a lot
por eso	that's why
el lado más local	the more local side
violencia	violence
visitante	visitor
nos identifica	it identifies/characterizes us

platillos mexicanos	Mexican dishes
te puedo llamar	I can call you
estoy para servirte	I am at your service
¿cuánto te debo?	how much do I owe you?

Michael ¡Taxi, taxi, por favor!

Taxi, taxi, please!

Martín Oh ¿qué tal? ¿A dónde va amigo? Súbase.

Oh, how's it going? Where are you going friend? Hop in (get up in).

Michael Ah, bueno, ah, voy al hotel, ahm, el hotel Hilton, pero gracias. Primero que todo, ¿cómo te llamas?

Oh, well, uh, I'm going to the hotel, um, the hotel Hilton, but thanks. First of all, what's your name?

Martín Oh, mi nombre es Martín, [¿Martín?] ¿cómo estás? Este, ¿de dónde vienes?

Oh, my name is Martin, [Martin?] how are you? Um, where are you from?

Michael Bien Martín, yo soy de California. Me llamo, ah, Michael, y quería saber de la ciudad un poquito. ¿Me puedes enseñar?

Good Martin, I'm from California. My name is, uh, Michael, and I wanted to know about the city a little. Can you show me?

Martín Claro que sí, Michael, mira, wellla ciudad está bien bonita y te puedo llevar a lugares interesantes, ¿y me dices que vas a un hotel...?

Of course I can, Michael, look, well the city is really pretty and I can take you to interesting places, and you tell me that you're going to a hotel...?

Michael El Hilton, sí.

The Hilton, yes.

Martín Ok, está bien, mira, te puedo llevar si quieres a conocer la playa, o adonde tú quieras, este, hay lugares bien bonitos aquí.

Ok, that's good, look, I can take you if you want to see the beach, or to wherever you want, um, there are really pretty places here.

Michael ¿Queda muy lejos de la playa el hotel?

Is the hotel very far from the beach?

Martín	No, no, está muy cerca.
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No, no, it's very close.

Michael	Y cuéntame, yo soy soltero, ¿hay sitios donde se puede bailar?
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And tell me, I'm single, are there places where you can dance?

Martín	Oh, sí, hay muchos lugares para divertirse, discos. Por la noche hay diversión de toda, este, muy sana, sobre todo, aquí pues hay mucho...hay mucho turista y viene mucha gente.
--------	--

Oh, yes, there are many places to have fun at, clubs. At night there is all kinds of, um, very clean fun, above all, here well there is a lot...there are a lot of tourists and a lot of people come.

Michael	Y cuéntame, restaurantes, me encanta comer.
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And tell me, restaurants, I love eating.

Martín	Oh sí, la comida mexicana, te la recomiendo, es la mejor, es la mejor y te puedo recomendar un buen restaurant.
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Oh yes, Mexican food, I recommend it, it's the best, it's the best and I can recommend a good restaurant.

Michael	Ah, qué rico, a mi me gusta eso, pero me gusta también el mar. Me gusta salir en los botes, ¿hay...hay algo donde me pueden sacar a pescar?
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Oh, delicious, I like that, but I also like the sea. I like to go out on the boats, Is there...is there something where they can take me out fishing?

Martín	Claro, sí, aquí hay lugares...hay lugares muy baratos; si tú quieres, puedes ir a una agencia, pero cobran mucho.
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Of course, yes, here there are places...there are very cheap places; if you want, you can go to an agency, but they charge a lot.

Martín	Yo, como soy de aquí, pues yo conozco toda la región y te puedo recomendar alguna persona que tenga un botecito por allí y te lleva a pescar, o si quieres irte en un yate, pues te va a costar mucho.
--------	--

Me, since I'm from here, well I know the whole region and I can recommend somebody that might have a little boat around and will take you fishing, or if you want to go out on a yacht, well it's going to cost you a lot.

Michael	Claro, por supuesto, no, por eso te estoy preguntando, muchas gracias Martín, te agradezco. Y quiero conocer la ciudad por lo que es de verdad, no lo turístico, el lado más local porque así se conoce una ciudad de verdad.
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Sure, of course, no, that's why I'm asking you, thanks a lot Martin, I appreciate it. And I want to see the city for what it truly is, not the tourist part, the more local side because that's how you truly get to know a city.

Martín	Mucha gente habla de...dice que... que pues hay mucha violencia,pero eso no es cierto. Mira, México es un país que recibe a todo visitante con gusto y más que nada porque pues, nos traen dolaritos, eso es bueno, verdad. Y aparte, pues, la comida es lo que nos identifica, las salsitas, los platillos mexicanos, tenemos diversos platillos, hay mucho restaurant, y hay de todo.
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A lot of people talk about...say that... that well there is a lot of violence, but that isn't true. You know, Mexico is a country that receives every visitor with pleasure and more than anything because well, they bring us little dollars, that is good, you know. And besides, well, the food is what identifies us, the (little) salsas, the Mexican dishes, we have varied dishes, there are a lot of restaurants, and there's some of everything.

Michael	Yo te puedo llamar cada vez que necesito ir a algún sitio, ¿verdad?
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I can call you each time that I need to go to some place, right?

Martín	Claro que sí, a la hora que tú gustes, yo estoy para servirte.
--------	--

Of course you can, at whatever time you like, I'm at your service.

Michael	Bueno Martín, me has ayudado mucho, ah, te agradezco, gracias por traerme al hotel. ¿Cuánto te debo?
---------	--

Alright Martin, you have helped me a lot, uh, I appreciate it, thanks for bringing me to the hotel. How much do I owe you?

Martín	Ok, mira, pues normalmente cobro cuarenta pesos, pero pues, me caíste muy bien, este, te voy a cobrar nada más tres dólares.
--------	--

Ok, you know, well normally I charge forty pesos, but well, I liked you a lot, um, I'm going to charge you only three dollars.

Michael	Ah, qué bueno Martín, muchas gracias, te agradezco. Si me puedes dar tu teléfono [Ok] para que te pueda llamar la próxima vez.
---------	--

Oh, how nice Martin, thanks a lot, I appreciate it. If you can give me your phone number [Ok] so that I can call you the next time.

Martín	Sí, claro que sí, mira, apúntalo, ¿tienes en que?
--------	---

Yes, of course I can, look, write it down, do you have something (to write) on?

Michael	Sí, aquí, aquí, estoy listo.
---------	------------------------------

Yes, here, here, I'm ready.

Martín	Ok, perfecto.
--------	---------------

Ok, perfect.

Michael	Muchas gracias.
---------	-----------------

Thank you very much.

Cómo Se Conocieron (How they met)

Hablantes: Enrique y Raquel de Mexico City.

An easy way to start a conversation with couples is to ask them how they met. Let's talk to one of our married couples de Mexico y bring it up. Most people will have some pretty humorous stories to tell. It's sometimes amusing to hear what their first impressions of each other were.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
y es un placer	and it's a pleasure
compartir	to share
nacé en México	I was born in Mexico
de chica	when I was little (as a little girl)
la preparatoria	high school
estudiamos la carrera	we studied our degrees
juntos	together
sicóloga	psychologist
ingeniero	engineer
el primer día	the first day
la escuela	school
en una fiesta	at a party
no nos hablábamos	we didn't speak to each other
nos empezamos a conocer	we began to get to know each other
me caías medio mal	I didn't really like you
presumido	conceited, vain
no recuerdo eso	I don't remember that
a todo volumen	at full volume
la juventud	youth
las canciones	the songs
le subo el volumen	I turn up the volume
mis oídos	my ears
lo sigo escuchando	I keep listening to it
variedad	variety
éxito	success
seguir aprendiendo	to keep learning

Enrique Hola ¿qué tal? Mucho gusto. Me llamo Enrique y esta es mi esposa.

Hello, how's it going? Nice to meet you. My name is Enrique and this is my wife.

Raquel Hola, mucho gusto, me llamo Raquel y es un placer compartir nuestras experiencias de México con ustedes.

Hello, nice to meet you, my name is Raquel and it's a pleasure to share our experiences of México with all of you.

Enrique Yo soy de la ciudad de México. Y Raquel, ¿tú de dónde eres?

I am from México City. And Raquel, where are you from?

Raquel Yo también nací en México y después, de chica, nos fuimos a vivir a Tijuana.

I was also born in México and then, when I was little (as a girl), we left to live in Tijuana.

Enrique Claro allí fue donde nos conocimos. Eh, íbamos en la misma preparatoria.

Of course there was where we met. Uh, we went to the same high school.

Raquel Mmhmm, está... ya hace algunos añitos y, ah, después, eh, estudiamos la carrera allí también juntos, ah, yo soy sicóloga.

Mmhmm, it's... a few short years ago now and, uh, then, uh, we studied our degrees there together as well, uh, I'm a psychologist.

Enrique Yo soy ingeniero.

I'm an engineer.

Enrique ¿Recuerdas el primer día que nos conocimos?

Do you remember the first day that we met?

Raquel Sí, fue en la escuela, y desp--sí, creo que sí, ¿en la escuela?

Yes, it was at school, and after--yes, I think it was, at school?

Enrique Sí, fue en la escuela.

Yes, it was at school.

Raquel	Y después en una fiesta, ¿no? Yo creo que fue en la fiesta primero, y luego en la escuela.
--------	--

And then we went to a party, didn't we? I think that it was at the party first, and then (later) at school.

Enrique	No, fue en la escuela primero y después... en la escuela no nos...no nos hablábamos. Y fue después en la fiesta donde ya nos empezamos a conocer.
---------	---

No, it was at school first and then... at school we didn't...we didn't talk to each other. And then it was at the party where we started to get to know each other.

Raquel	Ah sí, creo que tú me caías medio mal. Porque te me hacías muy presumido.
--------	---

Oh yes, I think that I didn't really like you. Because you seemed very stuck up to me.

Enrique	No recuerdo eso.
---------	------------------

I don't remember that.

Raquel	¿No te acuerdas? Que siempre llegabas con el radio a todo volumen en tu carro.
--------	--

Don't you remember? That you always would come with the radio at full volume in your car.

Enrique	Así era la juventud.
---------	----------------------

That's how the youth were.

Raquel	Sí, ¿verdad?
--------	--------------

Yes, right?

Enrique	Me gusta la música, me gusta oír mucho el radio, bueno más bien la música y las canciones y...y si voy en el carro, le subo el volumen.
---------	---

I like music, I like to listen to the radio a lot, well more so music and songs and...and if I go in the car, I turn up the volume.

Raquel	Sí ya me...eso sí ya mis oídos lo sienten. Y ¿qué extrañas de la música de allá de México?
--------	--

Yes I...my ears do feel that. And what do you miss about the music from over there in Mexico?

Enrique	Bueno, tanto como extrañarlo, no, porque lo puedo...lo sigo escuchando aquí. Pero, eh, yo creo que nada más he aprendido a dar más variedad a la música o sea no nada más un sólo género de música.
---------	---

Well, so much as missing it, no, because I can...I keep listening to it here. But, uh, I think that I've just learned to give more variety to the music I mean not just one sole genre of music.

Raquel	Pues estamos muy contentos de pod...haber podido compartir nuestra experiencia. Les deseamos mucho éxito en sus futuras clases, y...y pues seguir aprendiendo porque eso es... muchas oportunidades que van a abrir en su futuro.
--------	---

Well we are very happy to be... to have been able to share our experience. We wish you a lot of success in your future classes, and...and well to keep learning because that is... many opportunities are going to open up in your future.

Enrique	Igual, les deseo que puedan ir mejorando en sus estudios de español. Eh, yo sé que, pronto podrán entenderlo y conversar en español.
---------	--

Likewise, I hope that you can keep getting better in your Spanish studies. Uh, I know that soon you will be able to understand it and converse in Spanish.

Raquel	Gracias.
--------	----------

Thanks.

~ ADVANCED ~

Trabajar Desde Joven (Working De a Young Age)

Hablantes: Miguel de Texas, USA y Olegario de Mexicali, Mexico.

Do you remember your first real jobs? How old were you when you started working? I remember working as a pizza delivery boy when I was in High School, but I certainly did not start working full-time as young as Miguel y Olegario did. People de Mexico (in contrast to Latinos born in the United States) are well-known as dedicated employees who understry the value of hard work. They often put in long hours de a young age. Was your work experience anything like theirs?

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
hoy en día	nowadays
la educación	education
en tiempo atrás	in times past
cuando usted era joven	when you were young
ganar la vida	earning a living
empecé a trabajar	I started working
de turno completo	full-time / full shift
una tortillería	a tortilla shop
llegaba a la casa	I got home
me acostaba	I went to bed / I laid down
mi mamá me despertaba	my mom woke me up
bañarse	to shower / to bathe
arreglarse	to get ready
la secundaria	junior high
el penúltimo	the second to last
la primaria	elementary school
¿a poco?	really?
inmigraron (ellos)	they immigrated
agarraron (ellos)	they grabbed
herramientas	tools

Michael	Hoy en día, más que antes, la educación ahora es más inte...más importante, perdon.Y...y pues en el tiempo atrás, me imagino que cuando usted era joven, pues, ganar la vida y vivir era lo más importante, ¿verdad?.
---------	---

Nowadays, more than before, education now is more inte...more important, sorry. And...and well in times past I imagine that when you were young, well, earning a living and living was the most important, right?

Olegario	Sí, sí, fíjate Michael que yo empecé a trabajar, así bien bien ya de turno completo a los catorce años. Trabajaba en una tortillería, yo entraba de once de la noche a seis de la mañana. Llegaba a la casa a las seis y media, pues estaba cerca del trabajo. Me acostaba y a las once y media, mi mamá me despertaba para que me bañara y me arreglara y de allí me iba...me iba a la secundaria. Luego después, este, seguí algunos años de prepa igual, y este, y tuve yo que trabajar.
----------	---

Yes, yes, you know Michael, I started working, like hard hard, full-time, when I was fourteen years old. I worked in a tortilla shop, I came in from eleven at night to six in the morning. I got home at six thirty, 'cause it was close to work. I went to bed and at eleven thirty, my mom would wake me up so that I could shower and get ready and from there I would go...I would go to junior high. Then later, um, I kept going a few years of high school the same way and um, and I had to work.

Michael	Y pues como usted fue el penúltimo, verdad, me imagino que sus hermanos o...y sus hermanas, ah, mayores tuvieron que...que trabajar [Sí] desde más jóvenes [Sí y ellos], desde más pequeños.
---------	--

And well since you were the second to last, right, I imagine that your brothers or... and your older, uh, sisters had to...to work [Yes] since (they were) younger [Yes and they], since (they were) smaller.

Olegario	Ellos no, no tuvieron la oportunidad--algunos no terminaron ni la primaria.
----------	---

They didn't, they didn't have the opportunity-- some of them didn't even finish elementary school.

Michael	¿A poco?
---------	----------

Really?

Olegario	No. Ni la primaria la terminaron. [Mmhmm] Y este, pero te digo, inmigraron para acá, y... se vinieron jóvenes a estudiar en los dos idiomas. Agarraron sus cursos de máquinas y herramientas, este, en escuelas; y pues ya tienen buenos trabajos ahorita. [Qué bueno] Tienen sus buenos trabajos hablando los dos idiomas.
----------	---

No. They didn't even finish elementary school. [Mmhmm] And um, but I'll tell you, they immigrated over here, and... they came over as youth to study in both languages. They got their courses of machinery and tools, um, in schools; and well they have good jobs now. [That's good] They have their good jobs speaking both languages.

Michael	[mmhmm] Qué bueno.
---------	--------------------

[mmhmm] that's good.

Sembrar Algodón (Growing Cotton)

Hablantes: Miguel de Texas, USA y Olegario de Mexicali, Mexico.

Texas leads the U.S. in cotton production, growing about 25% of the entire U.S. crop. There are over 6 million acres planted each year! That's over 9,000 square miles of cotton fields. So it is no surprise that Miguel, who grew up there, lived y worked on a cotton farm. Let's listen to Miguel y Olegario talk about what it was like working on a cotton farm y how the work has changed over the years.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
empecé a trabajar	I started working
maíz	corn
sembraban frijol (ellos)	they grew beans
algodón	cotton
las cosechas	the crops / the harvests
trigo	wheat
me imagino	I imagine
la temporada	the season
la limpia	the cleaning
como le había mencionado (a Ud.)	like I had mentioned
me crié	I was raised
la pisca de algodón	the cotton harvest
juntar	to gather
un costal	a burlap sack
una bolsa	a bag
se llena	it fills up
caber	to fit
te los pesan (ellos)	they weigh them for you
sueldo	wage, salary
ganar	to earn
avanzas	you advance, you get ahead
no te cansas	you don't get tired
estar agachado	being bent down
fíjese	just think / go figure
una maquina	a machine
le quita la cáscara	it takes off the shell

echar para fuera	to throw out
ventajas y desventajas	advantages and disadvantages
Te quedas impresionado	You have to be impressed
estar agradecido	to be grateful
los avances	the advances

Michael	Yo pienso que, yo puedo decir, por allí como a los catorce años también empecé a trabajar, bueno no era porque tenía que, era porque yo quería trabajar. de agricultory allí sembraban maíz [Mmhmm] y sembraban frijol y algodón. Eran las cosechas que más sembraban. Y trigo un poco. Entonces en el algodón, me imagino que usted sabe, verdad, que se llega la temporada de la limpia del algodón [Sí, sí, claro]. Entonces yo recuerdo, como le había mencionado, eh, me crié en un hogar un poco pobre, verdad.
---------	---

I think that, I can say, around there like at fourteen I also started working, well it wasn't because I had to, it was because I wanted to work. My dad worked as a farmer and there they grew corn [Mmhmm] and they grew beans and cotton. Those were the crops that they grew most. And wheat a little. So on the cotton, I imagine that you know, right, that the season comes of the cotton-cleaning [Yes, yes, sure]. So I remember, like I had mentioned, uh, I was raised in a somewhat poor home, you know.

Olegario	Sí. Ahorita que mencionaste el algodón, me acordé, este, yo también anduve en...se llama la pisca de algodón.
----------	---

Yes. Just now that you mentioned the cotton, I remembered, um, I also was in... what's called cotton-harvest.

Michael	Oh, ok, es más difícil ese trabajo, [Sí] sí es más difícil.
---------	---

Oh, ok, that work is harder, [Yes] it is harder.

Olegario	Eh, tienes que andar tú juntando en un costal o una bolsa, este, el algodón, todo lo que es ya la flor blanca [Sí] es el algodón, y estar echándolo en ese costal y...y hasta se llena y lo puchas con la mano y cabe más algodón. Juntas varios costalitos y luego te los pesan al final del día, verdad, te los pesan y según lo que ha pesado es...cada costalito, ya te daban tu sueldo, lo que habías ganado. Y estaba chiquillo, estaba chico yo cuando hacía eso y avanzas porque estás chiquillo y no te cansas de estar agachado, ya...ya grande uno...para uno es más difícil.
----------	--

Uh, you have to go around gathering in a sack or a bag, um, the cotton, everything that is the white flower [Yes] is the cotton, and be throwing it in this sack and...and until it fills up and you push (U.S. slang) with your hand and more cotton fits. You gather several little sacks and later they weigh them for you at the end of the day, right, they weigh them for you and depending what...each little sack has weighed then they gave you your pay (wage), what you had earned. And I was small I was small when I did that and you get ahead because you are small and you don't get tired of being bent down, now...now grown up one...it's more difficult for you (one).

Olegario	Me acordé ahorita que me estabas platicando tú de eso, del algodón de allí, de Texas.
----------	---

I remembered just now that you were telling me about that, about the cotton from down there, from Texas.

Michael	Sí, ah-jah, así es. Y fíjese que...cómo cambia el tiempo, ¿verdad? Cómo la tecnología nos ayuda. Ahora, verdad, ahm, los avances que ha habido. Yo cuando viví en Texas en ese...en ese rancho de agricultura, también se llegaba la pisca de algodón; pero muy diferente a la pisca me imagino en la que usted trabajó, porque eso ya es una máquina que entra y ya le quita la cáscara y va echando todo para afuera, y sólo junta lo que es el algodón. No sé si le ha tocado verlos están grandísimos
---------	---

Yes, uh-huh, that's right. And just think that...how times change, right? How technology helps us. Now, right, um, the advances that there have been. When I lived in Texas on that...on that farming ranch, the cotton harvest also came; but very different from the harvest I imagine in which you worked because (all) that is now a machine that comes in and already takes the shell off it, and it goes throwing everything out, and it only gathers what is the cotton, I'm not sure if you've had a chance to see them, they are huge.

Olegario	Es la...la tecnología que cada vez se va modernizando y facilita más las cosas
----------	--

It's the...the technology that each time gets more modern and makes things easier.

Michael	Hay, este, ventajas y desventajas, verdad. Pues ya no se ocupa manos para hacerlo. Y la ventaja es, bueno pues ya se levanta más pronto la cosecha
---------	--

There are, um, advantages and disadvantages, right. Since now hands aren't used to do it. And the advantage is, well now the harvest gets taken up sooner.

Olegario	Una máquina puede hacer lo que veinte hombres o treinta harían y ya lo hace en un día
----------	---

A machine can do what twenty men or thirty would do and now it does it in one day.

Michael	Claro, claro, creo que son cosas que...podemos estar muy agradecidos podemos ir todo el día platicando o hablando de los avances, ¿verdad?
---------	--

Sure, sure, I think that they are things that... we can be very grateful, we can go all day chatting or talking about...about the advances, right?

Olegario	Sí, es cierto.
----------	----------------

Yes, it's true.

Los Consejos de Despedida (Farewell Advice)

Hablantes: Miguel de Texas, USA y Olegario de Mexicali, Mexico.

It is time to bid farewell to Miguel y Olegario. I hope you have enjoyed their conversations over the past few months y that you have been able to pick up some some of their Spanish. Let's thank them for their help y ask them to give us a final bit of advice about learning a language.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
encontrarse	to meet up
pasar un tiempo	to spend a while
los gustos	the likes / the preferences
aprendió (Ud.)	you learned
me la pasé bien	I had a good time
igualmente	likewise
ojalá que les sirva (a Uds.)	hopefully it's useful
¿a ver?	let's see?
un consejo	some advice
escuchar	to listen to
comentar	to comment
dar consejo	to give advice
fue difícil	it was difficult
darme a entender	to make myself understood
cuando llegué aquí	when I got here
facilitar	to facilitate, to make easier
amistades	friendships
desenvolverse en	to get by in / to cope with
invito a los oyentes	I invite the listeners
sigan estudiando (Uds.)	keep studying (all of you)
ir de turista	to go as a tourist
probar	to try, to taste
ánimo	heart, good attitude, enthusiasm
no se desanimen	don't get discouraged
que no les de vergüenza	don't get embarrassed
preguntar	to ask

dominarlo	to master it
practicar	to practice

Michael	Pues Lalo, qué bueno que nos encontramos aquí para pasar un tiempo hablando de, pues, de...yo creo de mi vida.
---------	--

Well Lalo, how nice that we met up here to spend a while talking about, well about...I guess about my life.

Olegario	Y de mi vida.
----------	---------------

And about my life.

Michael	Sí, y de su vida. Y aquí pudimos, eh aprender un poco más, verdad de cada uno.
---------	--

Yes, and about your life. And here we could, uh, learn a little more, right, about each one.

Olegario	De cada uno, de nuestras culturas, de tu cultura,y de mi cultura, de los...de los idiomas, de los gustos por la comida, de los estados, de las pronunciaciones de las palabras diferentes, [y eso] si...
----------	--

About each one, about, our cultures, about your culture, about my culture, about the...about the languages, about our likes for food, about the states, about the different pronunciations of the words, [and that too] yes...

Michael	De la familia, ¿verdad? Ah, usted aprendió un poco más yo creo de la...de...del país, [mmhmm] Estados Unidos, ¿verdad? Y yo, pues, yo aprendí mucho más de...del estado--digo, perdón, del país de México [mmhmm] y pues, este, qué bueno, qué bueno que pudimos hacer esto y...y me la pasé bien.
---------	--

About the family, right? Uh, you learned a little more I think about the...about...about the country,[mmhmm] about the United States, right? And I, well, I learned a lot more about the...the state-- I mean, sorry, about the country of Mexico [mmhmm] and well, um, it's great, it's great that we could do this and...and I had a good time.

Olegario	Igualmente Michael, igualmente. Me la pasé bien y, este, y ojalá...ojalá con...con esto que hemos estado platicando, este, pues ojalá que les sirva a nuestros oyentes.
----------	---

Likewise Michael, likewise. I had a good time and, um, and hopefully... hopefully with...with this where we have been conversing, um, well hopefully it is of use to our listeners.

Michael	Yo creo sí, [¿Verdad?] yo creo sí les va...les va a servir y ¿a ver, un...un...un consejo, un consejo que tiene usted para los que están escuchando para aprender el idioma?
---------	--

I think so, [right?] I think it is going...it is going to be of use and let's see, some (an) advice, some advice that you have for those that are listening to learn the language?

Olegario	Sí, sí me gustaría, ahorita que me comentas eso, dar un consejo, este, eh, ya que yo...para mí fue difícil cuando llegué aquí darme a entender Sólo español hablaba. Hoy no hablo mucho inglés, pero estoy, este, estudiando, y hablo algo. Entonces, eh, es interesante y siempre facilita tanto las relaciones de las dos culturas para que hagas, eh, amistades y también para que te desenvuelvas en un trabajo, entonces sí, sí, si invito yo a...a los oyentes a que...a que sigan estudiando español para que cuando vayan a México, puedan desenvolverse sin ningún problema. si van de turistas y hagan amistades y prueben la comida deliciosa de allá y, este, y lo mismo nosotros, venir aquí y pulirnos con su idioma también.
----------	---

Yes, yes I would like, now that you comment on that to me, to give some advice, um, uh since I...for me it was hard when I got here to make myself understood I only spoke Spanish. Today I don't speak much English, but I am, um, studying, and I speak a bit. So, uh, it's interesting and it always facilitates the relations of the two cultures so much so that you make, uh, friends and also so that you can get by at a job, so yes, yes, yes I do invite ...the listeners to...to keep studying Spanish so that when they go to México, they can get by without any problem if they go as tourists, and make friendships and try the delicious food from over there and, um, and the same for us, to come here and brush up on their language as well.

Michael	Exacto. Y yo también me gustaría dar un consejo. Ah, pues un poco de ánimo, ¿verdad? Mucho ánimo. Que no se desanimen. Ah, que nunca piensen que es imposible, porque todo es posible [Sí]. Y que no les de vergüenza, [Así es] ¿verdad? Que no les de vergüenza a aprender porque solamente, ah, así pueden aprender, [mm-hmm]hablando el idioma y aunque uno diga unas palabras que quizás no sean, o que las diga mal, pero uno nunca va a aprender si no pregunta, ¿verdad?Uno nunca va a aprender si no lo...si no lo practica [Así es]. Y para dominarlo hay que practicarlo. [Asi es]. Entonces, ese es el consejo que yo puedo dar. Me dio mucho gusto pasar el tiempo aquí con usted.
---------	--

Exactly. And I also would like to give some advice. Uh, well a little bit of encouragement, right? A lot of encouragement. Don't get discouraged. Uh, never think that it's impossible, because everything is possible [Yes]. And don't get embarrassed, [That's right] right, Don't get embarrassed(give you embarrassment) [That's right] right? Because, uh, that's the only way you can learn, [mm-hmm] speaking the language and even though one might say a few words that maybe aren't (words), or one says them wrong, but one is never going to learn if they don't ask, right, One is never going to learn if you don't...if you don't practice [That's right]. And to master it you have to practice it. [That's right]. So, that is the advice that I can give. It was nice spending time here with you.

Olegario	Igualmente, igualmente Michael. Este, yo...también me...me dio mucho gusto haber pasado este...este momento contigo y con nuestros oyentes y que...que esto sea para todos un bien.
----------	---

Likewise, likewise Michael. Um, I...it was also nice for me to have spent this... this moment with you and with our listeners and may...may this be a benefit for everyone.

Michael	Ándale pues [mm-hmm]. Bueno pues hasta luego [Andale],nos estamos hablando pronto.
---------	--

Alright then [mm-hmm]. Well then see you later [Alright] we'll be speaking (to each other) soon.

Olegario	Igualmente, gusto de verte.
----------	-----------------------------

Likewise, nice seeing you.

Michael	Hasta luego.
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See you later.

Olegario	Bye.
----------	------

Bye.