



Personal Proficiency Trainer

Summer Series
July 2010 Edition

Complete Transcript
with Full Translation

Edición de Julio - Días de Sol, Noches de Calor

"Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit."
– Henry David Thoreau

¿Están disfrutando sus vacaciones de verano? Are you enjoying your summer vacation? I know I am! I hope to do a lot of traveling this summer and spend a lot of time outside in the sun. Where will you go? The great thing about learning Spanish is that just about anywhere you travel to, you will be sure to find people who speak Spanish! Don't forget to ask my favorite question wherever you go--"¿Hablas Español?"

This month we'll practice our simple getting to know you questions with a friendly señorita from Mexico. Let's talk to her about some of the things we like to do for fun--like sports! If you choose to go to a Spanish-speaking country on vacation this summer, one thing you will certainly experience no matter where you go is staying at a hotel. So this month in our travel feature, let's practice checking in to a hotel in Colombia. Make sure they got the reservation right!

In our intermediate and advanced conversations, we'll talk a little more with two delightful sisters from Bolivia about the history of their country and how Bolivia lost some precious pieces of land to some of their not-so-kind neighbors. Finally, we'll listen to Luis and Raquel from Spain talk about many of the places in Spain that they have visited and what a diverse and varied landscape their home country has.

¡Qué te la pases muy bien y feliz Cuatro de Julio! Have a great time and happy Fourth of July!

Índice de Materias (Table of Contents)

Cover	1
Intro	2
Table of Contents	3
Conversations:	4
~ Beginning ~	4
Conocer a Claudia de México (Meet Claudia from Mexico)	4
Conocer a Claudia de México, Part II	10
~ Intermediate ~	11
Registrarse en el Hotel (Checking In at the Hotel)	15
Registrarse en el Hotel, Part II	16
Un País Sin Playa (A Country Without a Beach)	24
La Política Boliviana (Bolivian Politics)	27
~ Advanced ~	31
Viajes por España (Travels through Spain)	31
Un país variado (A Diverse Country)	35

CONVERSATIONS:

~ BEGINNING ~

Conocer a Claudia de México (Meet Claudia from Mexico)

Speakers: Claudia from El Distrito Federal, Mexico and Miguel from Texas, U.S.A.

Our number one goal at Visual Link Spanish is to get you speaking Spanish as fast as possible. The best way to do this is to practice what you are learning as much as you can, with everyone you talk to. For that reason we will try to give you at least one complete "getting-to-know-you" conversation with a different speaker each month. This way you can practice meeting people from all over the world. Remember to try out what you learn with new friends in real life!

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
buenos días	Good morning
Estados Unidos	United States
los paisajes	the landscapes, scenery
la gente	people
un estado	a state
es muy grande	it's very big
todo el mundo	the whole world
más o menos	more or less, about
un millón de personas	a million people
¡qué enorme!	how enormous!
demasiada gente	too many people
¿cómo es tu país?	what is your country like?
oye	hey
visitar	to visit
museos	museums
discotecas	dance clubs
¿te gusta bailar?	do you like to dance?
nacimos bailando	we are born dancing

música más moderna	more modern music
muy sabroso	very tasty
algo picante	something spicy (hot)
tu comida favorita	your favorite food
lo picoso	Spiciness
más que nada	more than anything
la comida más popular	the most popular food
asada	roasted/grilled meat
barbacoa	barbeque
tripas	guts, innards
sesos	brains
lengua	tongue
sabe riquísima	it tastes super delicious
consomé de pollo	chicken broth

Michael Buenos días. ¿Cómo estás?

Good morning. How are you?

Claudia Hola. Buenos días. Muy bien gracias.

Hello. Good morning. Very well thank you.

Michael Mi nombre es Michael. ¿Cómo te llamas tú?

My name is Michael. What is your name?

Claudia Oh, mucho gusto, Michael. Mi nombre es Claudia.

Oh, nice to meet you, Michael. My name is Claudia.

Michael Claudia. ¿De dónde eres tú, Claudia?

Claudia. Where are you from, Claudia?

Claudia De México.

From Mexico.

Michael Ah, de México.

Ah, from Mexico.

Claudia Y tú, ¿de dónde eres?

And you, where are you from?

Michael Yo soy de el Estados Unidos.

I'm from the United States.

Claudia Oh, de Estados Unidos [sí]. Muy bien.

Oh, the United States [yes]. Very good.

Michael Oye, ¿cómo es México?

So, how is Mexico? (What is Mexico like?)

Claudia Es muy bonito, cualquier lugar donde vayas. Hay—los paisajes, y la comida, y la gente. Me encanta.

It's very beautiful, wherever you go. There are—the landscapes, and the food, and the people. I love it.

Michael ¿A poco? ¿Y eres de un estado en general?

Really? And are you from a state in general?

Claudia Soy de la Ciudad de México.

I'm from Mexico City.

Michael De la Ciudad de México. ¿Y es grande?

From Mexico City. And is it big?

Claudia Es muy grande. Es la ciudad más grande en todo el mundo.

It's very big. It's the largest city in all the world (in the whole world).

Michael ¿A poco?

Really?

Claudia Sí. Es—hay, más o menos—o somos más o menos, como, veintiún millón...[veintiún]veintiún millones de personas [sí] en la ciudad.

Yes. It's—there are, more or less— or we are more or less, around, twenty-one million... [twenty-one] Twenty-one million people [yes] in the city.

Michael ¡Qué grande! [¡Imagínate!]Sí. Aquí sólo son como—yo creo que son como un—un millón de personas. ¿Ahora veintiún millón?

How big! [Just imagine!] Yes. Here there are only around— I think that there are around one—one million people. Now (you're telling me) twenty-one million?

Claudia Imagínate.

Imagine.

Michael ¡Qué enorme!

How enormous!

Claudia Demasiada gente.

Too many people.

Michael Oye, ¿y cómo es tu país?

Hey, and how is your country? [What is your country like?]

Claudia Bueno mira, en la Ciudad de México, hay muchos lugares para visitar. Hay museos, hay, este, discotecas, clubs, donde puedes ir a bailar.

Well look, in Mexico City, there are many places to visit. There are museums, there are, um, discos, clubs where you can go to dance.

Michael Oh, ¿te gusta bailar?

Oh, do you like to dance?

Claudia Claro. ¡Me encanta! Todos los mexicanos [sí, sí es cierto], nacimos bailando.

Of course. I love it! All Mexicans [yes, yes it's true] (we) were born dancing.

Michael A mí me encanta bailar. Me encanta. Me encanta bailar cumbias, rancheras, y también me gusta bailar música tecno, y pues, música más moderna.

I love dancing. I love it. I love to dance to "cumbias," "rancheras," and I also like dancing to techno music, and well, more modern music.

Claudia Oh. A mí me encanta bailar la salsa.

Oh. I love dancing the salsa.

Michael ¿La salsa? A mí me gusta comer la salsa.

Salsa? I love to eat salsa.

Claudia Oh ¿te gusta comer?

Oh, you like to eat?

Michael Sí, me gusta comer la salsa con chips, y luego en los tacos. ¡Muy sabroso!

Yes, I love to eat salsa with chips, and then with tacos. Very delicious!

Claudia Qué bueno. A mí también me encanta la salsa. No puedo vivir sin salsa en mi comida. Siempre tengo que poner algo picante en mi comida.

Oh good. I also love salsa. I can't live without salsa in my food. I always have to put something spicy in my food.

Michael Sí, sí es cierto.

Yes, yes it's true.

Michael Oye, ¿y cuál es tu mejor—tu...tu—bueno, tu comida favorita?

Okay, and what is your best—your...your—well, your favorite food?

Claudia Eh, son las enchiladas, fíjate. Pues te dije que me gustan las—lo picoso. Me gustan las enchiladas verdes, eh, más que nada. El mole me gusta un poquito pero me encanta más las enchiladas verdes.

Uh, (they are) enchiladas, believe it or not. Well I told you that I like the—spicy (things). I like green enchiladas, uh, more than anything. I like "mole" a little bit but I love green enchiladas more.

Michael En el D.F., ¿qué comida se come más? ¿Cuál es la comida más popular?

In the Federal District, what food is eaten most? Which is the most popular food?

Claudia Pienso que los taquitos.

I think the little tacos.

Michael	A mí me encantan los tacos de asada, de al pastor, de barbacoa. Las...las de tripas casi no.
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I love roasted meat tacos, “shepherd-style,” barbecued meat. The ones...the intestine-meat ones not really.

Claudia	No. Los de sesos también...o lengua.
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No. Ones with brains also... or tongue.

Michael	No, la barbacoa de lengua sí me gusta. Me encanta es más. Pero como dices tú, ¡con salsa!
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No, barbecued tongue I do like. I love it actually. But as you say, with salsa!

Claudia	Me encanta la barbacoa [sí]. Eso sí. La barbacoa con las salsas—con cualquier salsasabe riquísima. El consomé de pollo, o el consomé también.
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I love barbecued (meat) [yes]. That yes. Barbecued (meat) with salsa (sauce)—with any sauce tastes delicious. Chicken soup (broth), or soup as well.

Michael	Ajá.
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Uh-huh.

Claudia	Me encanta.
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I love it.

Conocer a Claudia de México, Part II

Speakers: Claudia from El Distrito Federal, Mexico and Miguel from Texas, U.S.A.

This month we will practice getting to know our friendly señorita from Mexico. To become proficient at casual conversation in Spanish, it is of course important to learn how to ask a variety of questions; however, we must also learn to answer questions, express our own opinions, and talk about our own interests. One of the best ways to practice is to learn all the vocabulary you can about a subject that interests you, then practice talking about your interests with friends. Let's see what Miguel has to say about one of my favorite subjects--sports!

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
los deportes	sports
jugar básquetbol	to play basketball
vóleibol	volleyball
soy chaparro	I'm short
muy alto	very tall
me quedo	I stay
me caen los codos	elbows fall on me
la cabeza	the head
te golpean	they hit you
saltan	they jump
salgo	I leave, I come out
chipotes	bumps
el fútbol americano	American football
obviamente	obviously
los países latinos	Latin countries
los domingos	Sundays
la gente se reúne	people get together
celebrar	to celebrate
están ganando	they are winning
usualmente	usually
los primos	cousins

ver fútbol	to watch football
la familia está unida	the family is united
es costumbre	it's a custom
yo he aprendido	I have learned
el boxeo	boxing
últimamente	lately
tomé una clase	I took a class
palos de golf	golf clubs
no los uso	I don't use them
este verano	this summer
los campos de golf	golf courses
aprender	to learn
es divertido	it's fun
manejar los carritos	to drive the carts
pasé un tiempo muy agradable	I had a very enjoyable time
platicando contigo	chatting with you
ándale pues	alright then
igualmente	likewise
en otra ocasión	some other time

Michael ¿Te gustan los deportes?

Do you like sports?

Claudia Sí, me encantan. Ehm, me gusta jugar básquetbol y vóleibol también.

Yes, I love them. Um, I like to play basketball and volleyball too.

Michael	Oh, qué bien. A mí me gustan los deportes. Es más, casi todos los deportes me gustan. No más que no me gusta casi el básquetbol porque como soy chaparro, no me gusta jugar tanto porque casi todos los que juegan están muy altos y me quedo muy abajo. Siempre me caen los codos en la cabeza.
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Oh, good. I like sports. In fact, almost all sports I like. Except that I don't really like basketball because since I'm short, I don't like to play much because almost everyone who plays are very high and I stay very low (I'm left down below). I always get elbowed in the head.

Claudia	Siempre te golpean [sí] cuando...cuando saltan.
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They always hit you [yes] when...when they jump.

Michael	Por eso casi no me gusta el "básquet." Pero todos los otros deportes me gustan. Me gusta el fútbol americano y el futbol "soccer." ¿El fútbol soccer es popular en México?
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For that reason I don't really like basketball. But all the other sports I like. I like American football and soccer. Is soccer popular in Mexico?

Claudia	Pues, eh, sí, obviamente. Porque creo que todos los países latinoses lo que les encanta más— [mm-hmm] es el fútbol soccer.
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Well, uh, yes, obviously. Because I think it's what all the Latin countries love most—[mm-hmm] is soccer.

Claudia	En todos lados vas a ver los domingos que la gente se reúne y para celebrar los equipos que están ganando. Y toda la familia—por ejemplo, mi familia usualmente los domingos se reunía—o se reúne. Obvia—Ehm, yo ahora que estoy aquí, no lo hago, pero con mi familia en México, sí. Cada domingo, toda la familia - los primos, los abuelos, en domingo se reúne para ver fútbol y después para celebrar, comía--comer juntos. Eso es bonito porque toda la familia está unida.
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Everywhere you will see on Sundays that people get together and to celebrate the teams that are winning. And the whole family— for example, my family on Sundays usually got together—or gets together. Obvious—Um, now that I'm here, I don't do it, but with my family in Mexico, yes. Every Sunday, The whole family – cousins, grandparents meets together on Sunday to watch soccer and afterwards to celebrate, they ate—eat together. That is nice because the whole family is united (together).

Michael	Sí. Parece que es costumbre, ¿verdad? ¿Es costumbre? Y sí, es cierto, porque yo he aprendido que el fútbol— eh, el fútbol soccer es un deporte que se juega en todo el mundo, no solamente en México, ¿verdad? Pero también me gusta el boxeo.
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Yes. It seems to be a custom, right? It's a custom? And yes, it's true, because I've learned that soccer—uh, soccer is a sport that is played throughout the world, not only in Mexico, Right? But I also like boxing.

Michael	Me gusta—es más, últimamente en los últimos tres años, he empezado a jugar mucho el golf. ¿No sé si has jugado tú en, eh, alguna ocasión el golf?
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I like—in fact, lately in the past three years, I've begun to play golf a lot. I don't know if you have played golf, uh, on any occasion?

Claudia	Sí. Y tomé una clase hace mucho [ajá] para jugar golf y tengo mis, ehm, palos de golf [sí] pero no los uso. No voy...no voy mucho. [Oh] Espero que este verano pueda hacerlo [sí] porque el...el clima y los campos de golf están tan bonitos y me gustaría ir este verano a tratar un poco [sí] y aprender.
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Yes. I took a class a long time ago [uh-huh] to play golf and I have my, um, golf clubs [yes] but I don't use them. I don't go...I don't go much. [Oh] I hope that this summer I can do it [yes] because the...the weather and the golf courses are so nice and I would like to go this summer and try a little [yes] and learn.

Michael	Y...y aun si no aprendes, y si no sales que—si no sale que eres así tan experta, bueno, pues de todos modos, es divertido manejar los carritos, ¿verdad?
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And...and even if you don't learn, and if you don't turn out that—if it doesn't turn out that you are an expert, well, anyway, it's fun to drive the carts, right?

Claudia	Claro, sí. Podemos andar por todos los caminitos.
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Of course, yes. We can ride along all the little paths.

Michael	Sí, sí es cierto. Pues Claudia, fue mucho gusto conocerte. Pero pasé un tiempo muy agradable platicando contigo. Y pues, es un placer conocerte. Como dije, mi nombre es Michael Y a ver si en otra ocasión, nos volvemos a encontrar.
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Yes, yes it's true. Well Claudia, it was nice to meet you. But I had a wonderful time chatting with you. And well, it's a pleasure to meet you. As I said, my name is Michael and let's see if on another occasion we meet again.

Claudia	Claro, Michael. Me encantó platicar contigo. Y espero, pues, que tengas un buen día, y hasta la vista.
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Of course, Michael. I loved chatting with you. And I hope, well, that you have a good day, and until next time.

Michael	Ándale pues. Igualmente.Hasta luego.
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All right then. Same to you. See you later.

~ INTERMEDIATE ~

Registrarse en el Hotel (Checking In at the Hotel)

Speakers: Sandra from Santiago de Cali, Colombia and Luisa from Bogotá, Colombia

This month we are pleased to feature some new speakers from Colombia. Many people mistakenly think of Colombia as a small nation in South America. It is actually the fifth largest country in Latin America. And with a population of over 45 million, it is home to more Spanish-speakers than anywhere in the world except Mexico.

Also, before you go to Colombia, make sure you learn to spell and say the country name correctly. Colombia was named in honor of Cristóforo Colombo (Christopher Columbus), who discovered America. Sometimes people make the mistake of spelling Colombia with a "u" (since his name is "ColUMbus" in English. It's "Colombia" not "Columbia". You will also be using the correct pronunciation if you pronounce it with an "O" sound--"ColOOmbia"--rather than the "um" sound--"ColUMbia".

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
bienvenida	welcome
¿cómo te llamas?	what is your name?
hice tres reservaciones	I made three reservations
mis dos amigas	my two friends
tu nombre completo	your full name
todas las registraciones	all the registrations
si me permites un momento	if will you'll allow me a moment
voy a hallarlas	I'll find them
buscar	to search for
ubicar	to locate
¿deseas tomar algo?	would you like to drink something?
traíganos	bring us
botellas de agua	bottles of water
ya regreso	I'll be right back
efectivamente	effectively
sus habitaciones (de Uds.)	your rooms
el piso alto	the high floor

el primer piso	the first floor
el edificio	the building
la ciudad	the city
una montaña	a mountain
una vista muy bonita	a very nice view
¿cuántas llaves desean?	how many keys would you like?
hay un error	there is a mistake
todas juntas	all together
dame unos minutos	give me a few minutes
el cambio	the change
corregir	to correct
el número de su habitación	your room number
constan de cocina	they consist of a kitchen
nevera	fridge
un desayuno	a breakfast

Recepcionista Bienvenida, buenas tardes, ¿Cómo te llamas, cuál es tu nombre?

Welcome, good afternoon. How are you called, what is your name?

Ashley Muy buenas tardes, mi nombre es Ashley.

Very good afternoon, my name is Ashley.

Recepcionista ¿Tienes ya tu reservación?

Do you already have your reservation?

Ashley Sí, hice tres reservaciones. Una para mí, y dos para mis dos amigas.

Yes, I made three reservations. One for me, and two for my two friends.

Recepcionista Ok, ¿me podrías regalar el nombre...tu nombre completo?

Ok, could you give me the name... your full name.

Ashley Mi nombre completo es Ashley Barker.

My full name is Ashley Barker

Recepcionista Ok, ¿y todas las registraciones están en el nombre tuyo, o están con nombres diferentes?

ok, and all the registrations are in your name, or they are with different names?

Ashley Están en el nombre mío.

They are in my name.

Recepcionista Ok. Me permites un momento por favor, voy a hallarlas, voy a buscarlas para poderte ubicar.

Ok. Will you allow me a moment please, I'll find them, I'll find them to be able to locate you.

Ashley Ok, muchas gracias.

Ok, thank you.

Recepcionista ¿Deseas tomar algo mientras tanto?

Do you wish to drink something meanwhile?

Ashley Sí. Por favor tráiganos tres botellas de agua.

Yes. Please bring us three bottles of water.

Recepcionista Ok. Jaime, por favor, alcánzame para las señoras tres botellas de agua.Ya regreso.

Ok.. Jaime, please, pass me three bottles of water for the ladies. I'll be right back.

Recepcionista Efectivamente, ustedes tienen reservaciones. ¿Desean...sus habitaciones sean en el piso alto del hotel,o que sean en el primer piso del hotel?

Indeed, you all have reservations. Would you like your rooms to be on the high floor of the hotel, or to be on the first floor of the hotel?

Ashley Quiero el piso más alto del edificio porque quiero tener una buena vista de la ciudad.

I want the highest floor of the building because I want to have a nice view of the city.

Recepcionista Oh, perfecto. Tendrías una vista al Monserrate, que es una montaña que tenemos cerca a nuestro hotel, y es una vista muy bonita.

Oh, perfect. You would have a view of the Monserrate, that is a mountain that we have close to our hotel, and it's a very nice view.

Ashley Muchas [Perfecto] gracias.

Thank you [Perfect] very much.

Recepcionista Tus...sus habitaciones son la dieciséis cero dos, la dieciséis cero tres, y la dieciséis cero cuatro. ¿Cuántas llaves desean de cada habitación?

Your...your rooms are the 1602, the 1603, and the 1604. How many keys would you like from each room?

Ashley No. Creo que hay un error aquí porque nosotras queremos una habitación para tres personas. Queremos poder estar todas juntas.

No. I think that there is a mistake here because we want a room for three people. We want to be able to be all together.

Recepcionista Oh, ya entiendo. Lo que pasa es que cuando hiciste la reservación, La hiciste con tres habitaciones diferentes. Pero no hay ninguna situación. Dame por favor unos minutos, y con mucho gusto, yo te puedo hacer el cambio. Te puedo corregir este error. Ahora, el número de su habitación va a ser la dieciséis cero siete. Tiene tres camas individuales, y también tiene su baño. Estas habitaciones también const...constan de cocina. Tienen cocina con su nevera, y tienen todos los instrumen...los materiales para poder, eh, que hagas un desayuno o cualquier cosa que desees hacer rápido.

Oh, now I understand. The thing (what happens) is that when you made the reservation, You made it for three different rooms. But there isn't any situation. Give me a few minutes please, and with (much) pleasure, I can make the change for you. I can correct this mistake. Now, the number of your room is going to be the 1607. It has three individual beds, and it also has its bathroom. These rooms also consist...consist of a kitchen. They have a kitchen with its refrigerator and they have all of the instruments... the materials to be able to, uh, for you to make a breakfast or anything that you might wish to make quickly.

Registrarse en el Hotel, Part II

Speakers: Sandra from Santiago de Cali, Colombia and Luisa from Bogotá, Colombia

Not surprisingly summer is the biggest season for the travel industry. And one traveling experience that nearly everyone encounters is checking in to a hotel. Let's learn to do it with confidence in Spanish. What are some of the questions you would ask about the hotel? Don't forget to find out about room service, the swimming pool, and especially the continental breakfast! ¡Qué disfrute su estancia! (Enjoy your stay!)

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
tengo una pregunta para usted	I have a question for you
el servicio	the service
todos los días	every day
aproximadamente	approximately
la limpieza de los cuartos	room cleaning
tocar a la puerta	to knock at the door
si deseas que hagan la limpieza	if you wish them to do the cleaning
quitar	to take off
el letrero	the sign
la puerta	the door
las llamadas	the calls
cobras	charges
mi cuenta	my account
al final	at the end
son gratis	they are free
tienen un costo	they have a cost
¿tendré acceso al internet?	will I have internet access?
la entrada	the entrance
una sala	a living-room, a lounge
fotocopiadora	photocopier
impresora	printer
esos servicios	those services

equipaje	luggage
colaborar	to collaborate, assist
al fondo	at the back, at the bottom
a mano izquierda	to the left-hand side
el ascensor	the elevator
los números pares	the even numbers
encontrar	to find
asegúrense	make sure (all of you)
unos diez minutos	about ten minutes
tenga cuidado	be careful
cosas delicadas	fragile things
recordarle (a Ud.)	to remind you
llamar	to call
marquen el cero	dial cero
con mucho gusto	with pleasure
que disfruten de este día	enjoy this day
Igualmente	likewise

Ashley Tengo una pregunta para usted.

I have a question for you.

Recepcionista Dime.

Tell me.

Ashley ¿Tenemos el servicio de la señora que viene a limpiar los cuartos?

Do we have the service of the lady that comes to clean the rooms?

Recepcionista Claro, todos los días en la mañana, aproximadamente a las ocho de la mañana, viene la persona que hace la limpieza de los cuartos, y te van a tocar a la puerta, si deseas que hagan la limpieza, por favor, quita el letrero que está en la puerta que dice que "por favor no le molesten."

Of course, every day in the morning, approximately at eight in the morning, the person that does the room cleaning comes, and they are going to knock at the door, if you would like them to do the cleaning, please, take off the sign that is on the door that says "please do not disturb."

Ashley Ok, tengo otra pregunta. El teléfono, ahm, las llamadas que yo hago en este lugar, ¿me van a hacer cobras en mi cuenta al final, o las llamadas son gratis?

Ok, I have another question. The phone, um, the calls that I make in this place, are they going to make charges on my account at the end or are the calls free?

Recepcionista Tienes llamadas gratis a toda Colombia. Si vas a hacer llamadas internacionales, tienen un costo.

You have free calls to all of Colombia. If you are going to make international calls, they have a cost.

Ashley ¿Tendré acceso al internet en este hotel?

Will I have access to the internet at this hotel?

Recepcionista Sí. Claro que sí, tienen acceso al internet en cada una de las habitaciones. Tenemos internet. Y también, aquí en la entrada del hotel, tenemos una sala que también tiene internet, tiene fotocopiadora, y tiene impresora también.

Yes, of course you well, you have access to the internet in each one of the rooms. We have internet. And also, here in the entrance to the hotel, we have a lounge that also has internet, it has a photocopier, and it has a printer also.

Ashley Ok.

Ok.

Recepcionista Todos esos servicios son gratis. ¿Tienes alguna otra pregunta?

All those services are free. Do you have any other question?

Ashley No. Eso es todo.

No. That is all.

Recepcionista ¿Tienen su equipaje? ¿Desean que les colaboremos con él?

Do you have your luggage? Would you like us to assist you with it?

Ashley Sí, por favor, tenemos tres maletas.

Yes, please, we have three suitcases.

Recepcionista Ok, si quieres, sigan a su habitación, al fondo, a mano izquierda, van a encontrar el ascensor, y esos son los de los números pares, como ustedes están en el piso número dieciséis, por favor asegúrense de que sea el ascensor de mano derecha, que está al mano derecha. Y el piso dieciséis, allí, a mano izquierda, van a encontrar su habitación.

Ok, if you want, continue to your room, at the back, on the left-hand side, you'll find the elevator, and those are the even-numbered ones, since you are on the floor number sixteen, please make sure that it's the elevator on the right-hand side, that is on the right-hand side. And the sixteenth floor, there, to the left-hand side, you'll find your room.

Ashley Muchas gracias.

Thank you.

Recepcionista En unos diez o quince minutos, la persona les llevará el equipaje a su habitación.

Later, in about ten or fifteen minutes, the person will bring your luggage to your room.

Ashley Muchísimas gracias. Tenga cuidado con las maletas, por favor, porque tienen cosas delicadas.

Thank you very much. Be careful with the suitcases, please, because they have fragile things.

Recepcionista Oh, perdón, Señora Ashley, se me olvidaba recordarle algo. Si ustedes tienen alguna pregunta o necesitan algo, por favor, llamen al cero, marquen el cero en su teléfono, y con mucho gusto, les podemos ayudar en lo que necesiten.

Oh, forgive me, Mrs. Ashley, I was forgetting to remind you something. If you have any question or need something, please, call zero, dial the zero on your phone, and with pleasure, we can help you in whatever you need.

Ashley Muchas gracias.

Thank you.

Recepcionista Que disfruten de este día en el hotel Radisson.

Enjoy this day at the hotel Radisson.

Ashley Igualmente. Hasta luego.

Likewise. See you later.

Recepcionista Buen día, gracias.

Good day, thanks.

Un País Sin Playa (A Country Without a Beach)

Hablantes: Tatiana y Antonina de La Paz, Bolivia.

It's always interesting to see hear people talk about their home countries and their views on history. One thing that Bolivians are still bitter about is the loss of their access to the sea (a huge economic advantage for any nation). Bolivia is the hemisphere's highest, most isolated and most rugged nation. It's among the earth's coldest, warmest, windiest and steamiest spots. It boasts among the driest, saltiest and swampiest natural landscapes in the world. Bolivia has it all...except, that is, for beaches. Bolivia and Paraguay are the only two landlocked nations in the Americas. Let's ask Tatiana and Antonina what happened to Bolivia's beautiful beach.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
un acto muy heroico	a very heroic act
siempre nos enseñan	they always teach us
en la escuela	at school
sabemos	we know
un muchacho	a boy
iba a defender (él)	he was going to defend
ese pedazo de tierra	that piece of earth
estaban robando	they were stealing
su vida	his life
¿te acuerdas?	do you remember?
antes de morir	before dying
rendir	to surrender, give up
cobardes	cowards
una furia	a fury
lo atacaron	they attacked him
lo mataron	they killed him
él murió	he died
heroicamente	heroically
de todas maneras	anyways
salida al mar	outlet to the sea

perder	to lose
los países que nos rodean	the countries that surround us
robar	to steal
un pedazo de tierra	a piece of earth
a la vez	at the same time
muy chistosa	very funny
en esa época	at that time, in that era
déspota	despot, tyrant
era bastante orgulloso	he was quite proud
amante	lover
un caballo blanco	a white horse
el tamaño de su pata	the size of his hoof

Tatiana Sí, pero un acto muy heroico Que siempre nos enseñan en la...en la escuela y que nosotras sabemos fue la—el acto heroi—heroico Que tuvo Eduardo Abaroa. Eduardo Abaroa fue, como todos, un muchacho. Se puede decir un muchacho porque no era mayor de treinta años o tal vez un poco menos. Pero él dijo Que él iba a defender ese pedazo de tierra Que nos estaban robando, cCon su vida. Entonces él dijo—¿Te acuerdas las palabras Que él dijo, Nina, antes de morir?“¿Rendirme yo? ¡Cobardes! ¡Qué se rinda su abuela!” Él lo dijo así y una furia de...de hombres malos lo atacaron y lo mataron y él...él murió, pero heroica—heroicamente.

Yes, but one very heroic act that they always teach us in...in school and that we know was the—the heroi—heroic act by Edward Abaroa. Edward Abaroa was, like everyone, a young man. You could say a young man because he was no older than 30 (years) or perhaps a little younger (less). But he said that he was going to defend that piece of land that they were taking (stealing) with his life. So he said—Do you remember the words that he said, Nina, before he died? “Surrender (myself)?” Cowards! May your grandmother surrender! He said it that way and a fury of...of bad men attacked him and killed him and he...he died, but heroic—heroically.

Tatiana De todas maneras nosotros no pudimos tener ese pedazo de tierra. Entonces nosotros—Bolivia, el—es uno de los países qQue no tiene salida al mar.

Anyway we couldn't have that piece of land. So we—Bolivia, it—it's one of the countries that doesn't have an exit to the sea.

Antonina	Exacto. Y así fue cómo perdimos el mar.Después perdimos todos los países que nos rodean. Nos robaron un pedazo de tierra. Con Brasil perdimos todo el Mato Grosso. Y eso es una historia muy, muy interesante y a la vez muy chistosa.Bueno. El presidente en esa épocaépoca era una persona que era muy déspota. Era bastante orgulloso y era bastante, ehm—le gustaba hablar de sí mismo. Entonces los brasileiros conocían eso. Sabíanque él era...era amante de sí mismo. Y ellos trajeron un caballo. En Bolivia, Tenemos caballos pero nunca el presidente había visto un caballo blanco.
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Exactly. And that is how we lost the sea. Afterwards we lost all the countries that were around us. They stole our piece of land. With Brazil we lost the entire Mato Grosso. And that is a very, very interesting story and at the same time very funny. Okay. In that era the president was a person who was very despotic/tyrannical. He was very prideful and was very, um— he liked to talk about himself. So the Brazilians knew that. They knew that he was...was in love (a lover) with (of) himself. And they brought a horse. In Bolivia, we have horses but never had the president seen a white horse.

Antonina	Él—los—el presidente de Brasil trajo un caballo blanco y se lo regaló, y dijo que— “Para el más grande presidente que he conocido,” y le dio el...el caballo blanco. Y nuestro presidente tenía un mapa que era...era un poco grande en el piso y dijo, “Como presente—como regalo hacia ustedes, tráigame el caballo, y donde pise, el tamaño de su pata— les voy a regalar.” Entonces el tamaño que era la...la pisada del caballo...
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He—they—the president of Brazil brought a white horse and he gave it to him (as a present), and he said that— “For the (most) greatest president that I have known,” and he gave him the...the white horse. And our president had a map that was...was a little big on the floor and he said, “As a gift—as a gift for (towards) you (all), bring me the horse, and wherever he steps, the size of his hoof— I will give you (as a present). So the size that was the...the footstep of the horse...

Tatiana	Era todo el Mato Grosso.
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Was the entire (whole) Mato Grosso.

Antonina	Que es...que es rico en castaña y en otros recursos naturales. Entonces se lo regaló prácticamente a Brasil. Y así es cómo perdimos esa parte con el Brasil.
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Which is...which is rich in chestnuts and other natural resources. So it was practically given (as a present) to Brazil. And that is how we lost that part with Brazil.

La Política Boliviana (Bolivian Politics)

Hablantes: Tatiana y Antonina de La Paz, Bolivia.

If there is one thing that may be common no matter where you go in the world, it might be complaining about politics. Let's see what Antonina and Tatiana think about the political leaders in their country. Like many countries, Bolivia has been through a lot of wars and hardships. Although the poorest country in South America (and boy do Bolivians get tired of hearing that), it's also one of the richest in terms of natural resources. It's also Latin America's most indigenous country, with over 60% of the population claiming indigenous heritage, including Aymará, Quechua, Guaraní and over 30 other ethnic groups. You may be surprised that race and ethnicity issues are very prevalent in Latin American countries as well.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
algunas batallas	some battles
es muy cálido	it's very warm
es muy seco	it's very dry
los soldados	the soldiers
lugares muy fríos	very cold places
lo que más nos ayudó	what helped us most
ganar la guerra	to win the war
no estaban capacitados	they weren't trained/qualified
soportar	to put up with
se deshidrataban	they got dehydrated
deshidratación	dehydration
pruebas	trials
la economía	the economy
la presidencia	the presidency
mejorar	to improve
surgir	to come up
un país hermoso	a beautiful country
los gobernantes	the leaders / the rulers
gobernar	to govern
ha sido electo	he has been elected

por segunda vez	for the second time
lamentablemente	unfortunately
la población	the population
indígena	indigenous
para aclarar	to clear up
el campo	the field
económicamente	economically
conocimiento intelectual	intellectual knowledge
las responsabilidades	the responsibilities
los eventos	the events
las ventajas	the advantages
exportar	to export
el estudio	the study

Tatiana	Tenemos también algunas batallas que hemos...que hemos tenido. La batalla de Ingavi, la batalla de Aroma, la batalla de...
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We also have some battles that we have...that we have had. The Battle of Ingavi, the Battle of Aroma, the Battle of...

Antonina	La guerra del Chaco. Con la guerra del Chacofue que perdimos la parte de Paraguay y un poco de Argentina. Eh, la de—lo que era—como saben, de la parte de Argentina, la parte del Chaco, es muy cálido. Es muy...es muy seco y muy cálido. Y todos los soldados que teníamos en ese tiempo eran de lugares muy fríos. Y lo que más nos ayudó, bueno, les ayudó al adversario al poder ganar la guerra del Chaco, fue que nuestros hombres no estaban capacitados para soportar el clima tan cálido. Ellos se deshidrataban muy rápido y perdimos muchos hombres más por deshidratación que por la guerra en sí. Así que fue que perdimos la parte del Chaco.
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The Chaco War. With the Chaco War it happened that we lost part of Paraguay and a little bit of Argentina. Uh, the—what was— as you know, of the part of Argentina, the part of Chaco is very warm. It's very...it's very dry and very warm. And all the soldiers that we had at that time Were from very cold places. And what most helped us, well, helped the opponent (adversary) to be able to win the Chaco War, was that our men Were not prepared (qualified) to withstand the very warm climate. They became dehydrated very quickly and we lost many men More from dehydration than from the war in itself. So it was that we lost the part of Chaco.

Tatiana	Bueno después de—a pesar de las muchas guerras y de las muchas...de las muchas pruebas que ha podido pasar Bolivia, ahora vamos a ver un poquito de cómo está la economía de Bolivia y cómo está la presidencia de Bolivia.
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Well after the— despite the many wars and the many...the many trials that Bolivia has passed through, now we are going to see a little of how the economy is (what's the economy like) of Bolivia and how the presidency is of Bolivia.

Antonina	¡Ay, ni me hables de eso! Nuestro querido presidente. Es por eso que estamos aquí nosotras ahora porque queremos mejorar nuestro país. Queremos que sea mejor y que—que pueda un día surgir porque Bolivia es un país hermoso. Pero luego los gobernantes—como dicen, depende quién los gobierne, así van a ser también las personas que son gobernadas.
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Oh, don't even talk about that! Our dear president. It's because of that that we're here now because we want to improve our country. We want it to be better and that—that one day it may arise because Bolivia is a beautiful country. But then the leaders— as they say, it depends who is governing them, that's how the people will be that are governed.

Tatiana	El presidente de Bolivia en este momento es Evo Morales. Evo Morales ha sido electo por segunda vez. Lamentablemente, la—un sesenta por ciento de la población de Bolivia es indígena y este, y esta persona que ha sido escogido es un indígena. Es Evo Morales. Él [espera] no tiene...
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The president of Bolivia right now (in this moment) is Evo Morales. Evo Morales has been elected for the second time. Unfortunately, the—sixty percent of the population of Bolivia is indigenous and um, and this person that has been elected (chosen) is indigenous. It's Evo Morales. He [wait] doesn't have...

Antonina	Antes, para aclararles, un indígena es una persona que vive en el campo que no ha recibido una educación, que no ha recibido—que su nivel de vida es...es bajo. No sólo el hecho económicamente, sino también intelectual.
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First (before), to clear things up, an indigenous person is a person that lives in the country that hasn't received an education, that hasn't received— that his level of life is...is low. Not only the fact economically but also intellectually.

Antonina	O sea, estamos diciendo que nuestro querido presidente no ha terminado la secundaria todavía, y el nivel que él tiene de conocimiento intelectual es muy poco.
----------	--

Rather, we are saying that our dear president has not finished high school yet, and the level that he has of intellectual knowledge is very low (little).

Tatiana	Y se dan cuenta las...las responsabilidades que tiene un presidente son tan grandes porque tiene que gobernar a un país. Él tiene que hacer los tratados de comercio con todos los países que están a nuestro alrededor. Tiene que hacer los eventos. Tiene que saber qué es lo...qué es lo bueno para nuestro país. Cuáles son las ventajas que tenemos para exportar o las cosas que tenemos para importar. Pero lamentablemente, por el estudio que él ha tenido, tal vez él no conoce muchas de esas cosas. Y él se apoya en otras personas que las cuales pueden hacerun poco de bien en nuestro país. Pero más quieren un bien para ellos mismos.
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And you realize the...the responsibilities that a president has are very great because he has to govern a country. He has to make the treaties of business with all of the countries that are around us. He has to do the events. He has to know what is...what is good for our country. What are the advantages that we have to export or the things that we have to import. But unfortunately, because of the study that he has had, perhaps he's not familiar with (doesn't know) many of these things. And he leans on other people that can do a little good in our country. But mostly they want good for themselves.

Antonina	Como, por ejemplo, Hugo Chávez. Ahora están, muy aliados con Hugo Chávez, y el presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro. Ellos están tratando de volver a Bolivia a un—en un país comunista.
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Like, for example, Hugo Chavez. Right now they are very close with Hugo Chavez, and the president from Cuba, Fidel Castro. They are trying to change Bolivia to a—into a Communist country.

~ ADVANCED ~

Viajes por España (Travels through Spain)

Hablantes: Raquel de Andalucía, España y Luis de Madrid, España.

People love to talk about all of the places they have visited in their home countries. Let's ask Raquel and Luis to tell us about some of their travels around Spain. Don't worry if you don't recognize the names of the places they have traveled to--you can get to know them all on your next vacation to Europe!

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
cuñado	brother-in-law
jamón	ham
chorizo	seasoned pork sausage
queso	cheese
por lo menos	at least
marisco	seafood
hacer un viaje	to make a trip
todos los veranos	every summer
empezar	to begin
algunas veces	sometimes
la costa norte	the north coast
bajábamos	we came down
mi bisabuela	my great grandma
vivió bastante tiempo (ella)	she lived quite a long time
muchos años	many years
mi tía abuela	my great aunt
por parte paterna	on my father's side (through the paternal part)
una residencia para ancianos	a retirement home (elderly residence)
es muy divertido	it's very fun
¡madre mía!	my goodness! (mother mine!)
la misma generación	the same generation
te das cuenta	you realize

son parecidas	they are similar
se llevan muy bien	they get along very well
están siempre allí	they are always there
diferencia	difference
interesante	interesting

Raquel Conocí a un...a un vecino de...de mi cuñado que vivía aquí en EEUU. Eh, él tenía orígenes de gallegos [mmm] de la zona de Galicia del norte de España.

I met a...a neighbor of...of my brother-in-law that lived here in the United States. Uh, he had Galician origins [mmm] from the area (zone) of Galicia from northern Spain.

Luis ¿De qué parte de Galicia? [Y...]

From what part of Galicia?

Raquel No lo sé. No me acuerdo. Sé que era de...de esa zona. Y él le encargaba por Internet [mmm] jamón, chorizo, queso. Y un día nos invitó a su casa y tuvimos un— nos sacó unas tapitas [unas tapitas, mmm] Sí.

I don't know. I don't remember. I know that he was from...from that area. And he ordered by (over) the Internet [mmm] ham, chorizo (pork sausage), cheese. And one day he invited us to his house and we had a— he brought us out some little finger foods [some little "tapitas," mmm] Yes.

Luis Ya. Yo—eso, para mí, es—Una de las zonas [mmm] más bonitas de España es Galicia [mm-hmm]. Y las que más— por lo menos en cuestión de comer, [sí] se come muy bien [se come bien]. Sobre todo, marisco. [Mmm.]

Yeah. I—that, for me, is— One of the most beautiful areas [mmm] of Spain is Galicia [mm-hmm]. And that most— at least in matters of eating, [yes] you eat very well [you eat well]. Above all, seafood.

Raquel No he estado yo en Galicia. Este, uno de los sitios que todavía me gustaría hacer un viajecito y conocer esa zona.

I haven't been in Galicia. Um, one of those sites (places) that I would still like to make (take) a little trip and become familiar with that area.

Luis Yo iba mucho porque mis dos abuelas son de Galicia.

I used to go a lot because my two grandmothers are from Galicia.

Raquel	Ah.Una es de las Rías Altas [mm-hmm] en la zona del norte de Galicia [sí] y la otra es de las Rías Bajas en la zona [mmm] sur de Galicia. Y entonces lo que...lo que mi padre hacía todos los veranos cuando teníamos vacaciones era, eh—Al principio íbamos con una tienda de campaña [mm-hmm].Eh, íbamos toda la familia y lo que hacíamos era empezar en el norte de España, en la zona de—algunas veces Asturiaso algunas veces Santander.
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Ah. One is from Upper Rias [mm-hmm] in the northern area of Galicia [yes] and the other is from Lower Rias in the southern area [mmm] of Galicia. And so what...what my father did every summer when we had vacation was, uh— At first we went with a camping tent [mm-hmm]. Uh, (we) the whole family went and what we (used to) do was start in northern Spain in the area— sometimes Asturias or sometimes Santander.

Raquel	Sí.
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Yes.

Luis	Y hacer toda la costa norte [mm-hmm] y luego al llegar a Galicia, norte de Galicia, bajábamos hacia el sur y nos hacíamos en quince días la...[guau]la cornisa—lo que se llama la cornisa Cantábrica [sí],que es Asturias, Santander y el--y...y Galicia.
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And do the whole northern coast [mm-hmm] and then upon arriving at Galicia, north of Galicia, we went down towards the South and we did in fifteen days the...[wow] the coast— what is called the Cantabrian Coast [yes], which is Asturias, Santander and the—and...Galicia.

Raquel	Y Galicia.
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And Galicia.

Luis	Y de paso visitábamos a la—¿A quién era? ¡Ah! La--A mi bisabuela.
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And while there we visited the— Who was it? Ah! The—my great-grandmother.

Raquel	¡Ah!Entonces la conociste [sí]. Vivió bastante tiempo, [mm-hmm]¿sí?
--------	---

Ah! So you met her [yes]. She lived a long time, right? [mm-hmm].

Luis	Mi bisabuela vivió hasta los noventa y cinco.noventa y seis años.
------	---

My great-grandmother lived until ninety-five, ninety-six years...

Raquel	Guau, guau [me parece que fue].Muchos años.
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Wow, wow [I think it was]. So many years.

Luis	Y la hija...una de las hijas...una de las—la que es mi tía abuela [mm-hmm] por parte paterna [mm-hmm], eh, está todavía viva. Es...es muy divertido Porque vive en una residencia [mm-hmm] para ancianos [sí] con una tía suya [ajá] y la tía tiene solamente dos años más que ella.
------	--

And the daughter... one of the daughters... one of the— The one that is my great-aunt [mm-hmm] on the paternal side [mm-hmm] is still alive. It's very fun because she lives in a residency [mm-hmm] for the elderly [yes] with an aunt of hers [uh-huh] and the aunt is only two years older than her.

Raquel	A ver, a ver. ¿Cómo es eso? Tu...
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Let's see, let's see (wait, wait) How is that? Your...

Luis	Mi tía abuela [sí] tiene, eh— me parece que son ahora noventa años.
------	---

My great-aunt [yes] has, uh— I think that they are (it's) now ninety years.

Luis	Su tía [sí] que es la madre, la hermana de su madre [vale] tiene solamente dos años [dos años], me parece, más que ella. [¡Madre mía!]
------	--

Her aunt [yes] who is the mother, the sister of her mother [okay] Is only two years [two years], it seems to me (I think), more (older) than her.

Luis	Así que es muy divertido [ay] porque nunca lo piensas [sí]. Piensas que son las dos de la misma generación Y además— Y la otra—te das cuenta de que de edad, sí, son parecidas pero luego generacionalmente, una es de la generación anterior. [Guau.]
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So it's very fun [wow] because you (would) never think [yes]. You (would) think that the two are from the same generation and besides— And the other— you realize that from the age, yes, but then generationally, one is from the previous generation.

Luis	Y se llevan muy bien. Están siempre allí.
------	---

And they get along very well. They are always there.

Raquel	Ah, porque no es fácil ver algo...algo así [no]. Con esa poquita diferencia de [mm-hmm]...de edad [mm-hmm]. Ah, interesante.
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Because it's not easy to see something...something like that [no]. With that little difference of (in) [mm-hmm]...in age [mm-hmm]. Ah, interesting.

Un País Variado (A Diverse Country)

Hablantes: Raquel de Andalucía, España y Luis de Madrid, España.

Although Spain may seem like a small country in comparison with the United States, it has almost as much variation and diversity in its landscape and climate. Let's talk to Raquel and Luis about the diversity that there is in Spain. Pay attention to their accents and see if you can distinguish them from our other speakers from Mexico and South America. Spaniards have the most distinguishable of all Spanish accents, but you will surprise yourself by how easy it is to understand—don't ever be intimidated by different accents in Spanish. Spanish is a very uniform language and, unlike English, the differences are not extremely pronounced from one country to the next.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
mi familia	my family
viajábamos mucho	we traveled a lot
tengo ganas de visitarla	I have a desire to visit it
es muy bonito	it's very nice/pretty
es muy parecido a	it's very similar to
el clima	the climate
la cultura	the culture
muy poca gente	very few people
una diversidad geográfica	a geographic diversity
una diversidad cultural	a cultural diversity
una zona desértica	a desert zone
las montañas	the mountains
esquiando	skiing
la nieve	the snow
bosques	forests
la misma manera	the same way
cada ciudad	each city
sus propias tradiciones	its own traditions
su manera de cocinar	its way of cooking
las tradiciones.	the traditions

Raquel	Mi familia,tanto de mi madre como de mi padre,son más de...del centro de...de Castilla [mm-hmm]. Eh, mi padre era de Zamora [mmm]. Está arriba de Madrid. Y mi madre era de Palencia. Así que somos buenos castellanos.
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My family, from my mother as well as from my father, are more from...from the center of...of Castile [mm-hmm]. Uh, my father was from Zamora [mmm]. It's above Madrid. And my mother was from Palencia. So we are strong Castilians.

Luis	Castellanos. Castellanos viejos.
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Castilians. Old Castilians.

Raquel	Sí. Sí. Y también viajábamos mucho por esa zona pero nunca llegábamos a subir a—hasta Galicia y tengo ganas de visitarla.
--------	---

Yes. Yes. And we also (used to) travel a lot throughout that area but we never got to go up to...until Galicia and I have desires to visit it.

Luis	Mmm. Es muy bonito. Es muy parecido a Irlanda.
------	--

Mmm. It's very pretty. It's very similar to Ireland.

Raquel	¿Mmm?
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Mmm?

Luis	Es una cosa que— la...la gente en general siempre piensa España en términos de...del clima Y de la cultura del sur de Andalucía [mm-hmm].Y...y muy poca gente se da cuenta de que, eh, España es—tiene una...una diversidad geográfica y una diversidad cultural grandísima. En muy pocos kilómetros y muy poca distancia, puedes ir de una zona más o menos desértica [mm-hmm]como puede ser_Almería [mm-hmm], eh, en que puede ser, dos horas, puedes estar en...en Granada [sí].Y puedes estar en...en las montañas esquiando [con la nieve].No hay...no hay—Y por en medio tienes bosques,o sea,que no es—no es que todo sea de la misma manera, ni...[mm-hmm].
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It's one thing that— people in general always think of Spain in terms of...of the climate and of the weather of southern Andalusia [mm-hmm]. And...and very few people realize that, uh, Spain is— has a...a geographical diversity and a huge cultural diversity. In very few kilometers and in a very small distance, you can go from a more or less desert area [mm-hmm] like Almeria can be [mm-hmm], uh, that may be, two hours, you can be in...in Granada [yes]. And you can be in...in the mountains skiing [with the snow]. There is no...there is no— And in the middle you have forests, I mean, that it's not— It's not that everything is is the same way, neither...[mm-hmm].

Raquel	Hmm.
--------	------

Hmm.

Raquel	Y luego la otra cosa es que cada...cada ciudad dentro de—siendo España tienen sus propias tradiciones [mm-hmm]. Su manera de...de cocinar [mm-hmm] en algunos casos—muy...muy [mm-hmm] diferentes también.
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And then the other thing is that each...each city withinSpain has its own traditions [mm-hmm]. Their manner (way) of...of cooking [mm-hmm] in some cases— very...very [mm-hmm] different as well.

Luis	Y ha...hablando de las tradiciones [hmm], ¿ahora es cuando empiezan las fiestas en Valencia, casi, no?
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And sp...speaking of traditions [hmm], Now is when the parties begin in Valencia, almost, right?

Raquel	Sí. Sí.
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Yes. Yes.