



Personal Proficiency Trainer

Fall Series

September of 2010

Complete Transcript
and Translation

Edición de Setiembre - El Mundo Está Maduro Para La Cosecha

Bienvenidos a la primera edición del otoño. Welcome to the first edition of the fall. Ya viene la época del cambio. The season of change is coming. Vamos a observar con maravilla mientras la tierra se prepara para el invierno venidero. Let's watch in awe as the earth prepares itself for the coming winter.

What is your favorite part of the fall? Do you like to spend time outdoors and enjoy the scenery? Do the trees transform into canvases of color where you live? September's cool breezes and light rains make this one of my favorite months to be outside--and an excellent month to learn to talk about mother nature's wonders in Spanish!

September is a big month for the Spanish-speaking world. Numerous countries celebrate their independence this month, including our next-door neighbors to the south, Mexico, on Sept. 16. Ironically, the next day is the day the Central American nations gained independence from Spain. Then two days later came Chile followed by Belize and finally Puerto Rico on Sept 23 with the Grito de Lares. Let's celebrate by learning some Spanish!

This month we will practice some getting-to-know-you questions with some new friends from Colombia. There is a lot of new vocabulary this month, so pay attention.

One of the places where the Spanish language is getting used more and more is in our schools. Bilingual education is growing more and more popular. Many parents of K-12 students only speak Spanish, so teachers must learn to communicate with them. Do you think you could hold a parent-teacher conference in Spanish? Let's listen in and find out.

In our advanced conversations, we'll start by listening to the stark cultural differences that Tatiana and Antonina experienced in their dating life when they immigrated to the United States. Finally, we will get some advice from two señoras from Central America on learning a second language.

So, happy Independence Days and Happy Autumn Solstice everyone! ¡Qué se la pasen bien!

Índice de Materias (Table of Contents)

Cover	1
Intro	2
Table of Contents	3
Conversations:	4
~ Beginning ~	
Conocer a Sandra (Meet Sandra)	4
Conocer a Sandra, Part II	8
~ Intermediate ~	
Reunión Con La Profesora (Meeting With The Teacher)	12
Reunión Con La Profesora, Part II	15
Diferencias Culturales (Cultural Differences)	18
Diferencias en El Noviazgo (Differences in Dating)	22
~ Advanced ~	
Unos Consejos (Some advice)	25
Aprender Inglés (Learning English)	29

CONVERSATIONS:

~ BEGINNING ~

Conocer a Sandra (Meet Sandra)

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

Let's practice a simple getting-to-know-you conversation with two of our friends from Colombia. Remember, the more you practice, the more confident you will be in real life when you meet a new friend for the first time. We try to cover realistic situations that could actually happen in real life such as in this month's conversation where we Miguel will ask for clarification about the proper way to pronounce a few words.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
hoy	today
presentar	to introduce / to present
mi amiga	my friend (f)
cuéntame	tell me
¿Dónde naciste?	Where were you born?
nací en	I was born in
¿Cuántos años tienes?	How old are you?
mi familia está conformada	my family is made up of
mi papá	my dad
mi mamá	my mom
mi hermano	my brother
no tengo hermanas	I don't have sisters
¿Hace cuanto vives acá?	How long have you lived here?
tu color preferido	your favorite color
el arco iris	the rainbow
definir	define
el color amarillo	the color yellow
rojo	red
naranja	orange
azul	blue
rosado	pink
blanco	white
me identifico a	I relate to
tierno	tender, affectionate
romántico	romantic

algo bellissimo	something extremely beautiful
la naturaleza	nature
¿Qué estudias?	What do you study?
psicología	psychology
¿Y también trabajas?	And do you work as well?
un centro de rehabilitación	a rehabilitation center
personalidad	personality
las mascotas	pets
los perros	dogs
los caballos	horses
los conejos	rabbits

Luisa	Hola. Hoy les vamos a presentar a mi amiga Sandra. Sandra, cuéntame, ¿tú, dónde naciste?
-------	--

Hello. Today we are going to introduce you to my friend Sandra. Sandra, tell me, where were you born?

Sandra	Yo nací en la ciudad de Cali, Colombia.
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I was born in the city of Cali, Colombia.

Luisa	¿En qué año naciste?
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In what year were you born?

Sandra	En mil novecientos ochenta.
--------	-----------------------------

In 1980.

Luisa	Oh, o sea que ¿cuántos años tienes?
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Oh, or meaning (it is that) how old are you?

Sandra	Tengo veintinueve años.
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I am twenty-one.

Luisa	Y, cuéntame más de tu familia.
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And, tell me more about your family.

Sandra	Mi familia está conformada por mi papá, mi mamá, y mi hermano. No tengo hermanas.
--------	---

My family is made up of my dad, my mom, and my brother. I don't have sisters.

Luisa	¿Cuántos años tiene tu hermano?
	How old is your brother?
Sandra	Dos meses de nacido.
	Two months old (from birth).
Luisa	Oh, ¿es un bebé entonces?
	Oh, he is a baby then?
Sandra	Sí, es un bebé.
	Yes, he's a baby.
Luisa	Qué bueno. ¿Y tu hermano vive en Colombia?
	That's good. And your brother lives in Colombia?
Sandra	Sí. Con mi mamá.
	Yes, with my mom.
Luisa	¿Hace cuanto vives acá en Estados Unidos?
	How long have you lived here in the United States?
Sandra	Cuatro años y seis meses.
	Four years and six months.
Luisa	Sandra, cuéntame, ¿cuál es tu color preferido?
	Sandra, tell me, What is your favorite color?
Sandra	Mi color preferido es el color del arcoíris. Porque es difícil definir tu color. Entonces yo digo el arcoíris porque el arcoíris tiene el color amarillo, rojo, naranja, azul, rosado, blanco. Tiene todos los colores.
	My favorite color is the color of the rainbow. Because it is difficult to define your color. So I say the rainbow because the rainbow has the color yellow red, orange, blue, pink, white. It has all the colors.
Luisa	Qué bueno. Yo también me identifico muchísimo con el arcoíris. Me parece hermoso. El arcoíris me parece muy tierno, muy romántico. Me parece algo bellísimo de la naturaleza.
	That's good. I also relate a lot with the rainbow. I find it beautiful (it seems beautiful to me). The rainbow seems very tender, very romantic. I find it something beautiful from nature.
Luisa	Y ahora, cuéntame, ¿qué haces, que estudias?
	And now, tell me, What do you do, what do you study?

Sandra	Yo estoy estudiando sicología. I'm studying psychology.
Luisa	Estás estudiando sicología. ¿Y también trabajas? You're studying psychology. And do you also work?
Sandra	Sí. Trabajo en un centro de rehabilitación para niñas con problemas de personalidad. Yes. I work at a rehabilitation center for girls with personality problems.
Luisa	Qué bueno. ¿También te gustan las mascotas? That's good. "Do you also like pets?"
Sandra	Mucho. Me gustan los perros, los caballos, los conejos, me gusta casi toda clase de animales. A lot. I like dogs, horses, rabbits, I like almost all kinds of animals.
Luisa	¿Y en este momento tienes alguna mascota en tu casa? "And at the moment do you have any pets at home?"
Sandra	No. No.
Luisa	Oh, me imagino que por el tiempo. Oh, I imagine because of the time.
Sandra	Sí, por eso. No tengo tiempo para dedicarles a los animales. Los animales necesitan mucho tiempo. Yes, that's why. I don't have time to devote to the animals. Animals need a lot of time.
Luisa	Los animales son hermosos. Me encantan los animales a mí también. Casi siempre durante toda mi vida he tenido perros. Animals are beautiful. I love animals too. Almost always throughout my life I've had dogs.

Conocer a Sandra, Part II

Speakers: Sandra from Santiago de Cali, Colombia and Luisa from Bogotá, 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>	
disfrutas	you enjoy
tu tiempo libre	your free time
nadar	to swim
correr	to run
ir al gimnasio	to go to the gym
leer	to read
cantar	to sing
bailar	to dance
las mañanas	the mornings
hacerte una mejor persona	to make you a better person
¿Tienes novio?	Do you have a boyfriend?
búsqueda	search
eso está planeado	that is planned
tus metas	your goals
tu vida	your life
has viajado bastante	you've traveled quite a lot
viajar	to travel
es muy divertido	it's very fun
cultura	culture
subirse en los trenes	to get on the trains
los aviones	the planes
tu comida favorita	your favorite food
engordan	they are fattening (they make you fat)

una mujer muy delgada	a very thin woman
cabello	hair
color café oscuro	dark brown colored
ojos	eyes
piel	skin
canela	cinnamon
labios delgados	thin lips
mi cabello es corto	my hair is short
bajita	short
tu estilo	your style
bien vestida	well dressed (f.)
lo que está de moda	what is in style / fashionable

Luisa	Sandra, y ahora cuéntame de tus hobbies, de tus... ¿En qué disfrutas tu tiempo libre?
-------	---

Sandra, and now tell me about your hobbies, about your... What do you enjoy your free time on?

Sandra	Me gusta mucho nadar, correr, ir al gimnasio en las mañanas. Me gusta mucho leer, cantar, bailar.
--------	---

I really like swimming, running, going to the gym in the mornings. I really like reading, singing, dancing.

Luisa	¿Qué tipo de libros lees?
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What kind of books do you read?

Sandra	Me gusta mucho leer los libros de sicología. Todo lo que te ayuda hacerte una mejor persona cada día.
--------	---

I really like reading books on psychology. Everything that helps you to make yourself a better person each day.

Luisa	¿Y tienes novio?
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"And do you have a boyfriend?

Sandra	No.
--------	-----

No.

Luisa	¿Y está planeado, eh, esa búsqueda del novio?
-------	---

And is it planned, eh, that search for a boyfriend?

Sandra	Sí señorita. Hay que...claro, eso está planeado, sólo que no tengo mucho tiempo.
--------	--

Yes ma'am. You've got to... of course, that is planned, only I don't have much time.

Luisa	¿Y en tus metas están los hijos?
	And among your goals are children?
Sandra	Sí claro, me encantan los niños.
	Yes of course, I love children.
Luisa	¿Qué países has conocido durante tu vida?
	Which countries have met in your lifetime?
Sandra	He estado en Venezuela, he estado en Perú, he estado en Ecuador, he estado en Italia.
	I've been in Venezuela I've been in Peru I have been in Ecuador, I've been to Italy.
Luisa	Has viajado bastante, qué rico. Viajar es muy divertido. Y realmente viajar también es cultura.
	You've traveled a lot, how terrific (good). Travelling is very fun. And really traveling is also culture.
Sandra	Sí, lo mejor de viajar son...es subirse en los trenes, en los...en los aviones, andar en los buses, los taxis. Los taxis en cada ciudad son muy diferentes.
	Yes, the best part of traveling is... is getting on trains, on the ... on airplanes, riding on buses, taxis. The taxis in each city are very different.
Luisa	¿Cuál es tu comida favorita?
	What is your favorite food?
Sandra	Me gusta mucho la comida italiana.
	I love Italian food.
Luisa	¿Las pastas?
	Pastas?
Sandra	Sí. [Ok, que--] Aunque engordan, pero me gustan mucho.
	Yes [Ok, that -] Although they are fattening (they make you fat), but I like them a lot.
Luisa	Pero tú eres una mujer muy delgada. Me encantaría que te describieras.
	But you're a thin woman. I would love it for you to describe yourself.
Sandra	Bueno, ahm, Tengo cabello color café oscuro, tengo ojos color café oscuro, tengo piel color canela, tengo labios delgados, tengo nariz delgada, mi cabello es corto, mmm, soy delgada y bajita.
	Well um, I have dark brown hair, I have dark brown eyes, I have cinnamon-colored skin, I have thin lips, I have a thin nose, my hair is short, mmm, I'm thin and short.

Luisa	¿Y cuál es tu estilo para vestir? ¿Cómo te gusta vestir?
-------	--

And what is your style of dress? How do you like to dress?

Sandra	Me gusta mucho estar bien vestida, me gusta mucho utilizar todo lo que está de moda.
--------	--

I love to be well dressed, I like to use everything that is fashionable.

~ INTERMEDIATE ~

Reunión Con La Profesora (Meeting With The Teacher)

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

Depending on where you live, you may have noticed Spanish popping up more and more in our schools. The number of Hispanic students and bi-lingual education programs has continued to rise over the past few decades. Many public schools incorporate English as a Second Language programs and interpreters to accommodate the Spanish-speaking population. In fact, volunteering at a school is a great way to get practice interpreting.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
buenas tardes	good afternoon
padre	father
tome asiento	take a seat
reuniones	meetings
las calificaciones	the grades
cada materia	each subject
aprender	to learn
cómo puede mejorar (ella)	how she can improve
una niña	a little girl
activa	active
siempre es atenta (ella)	she is always attentive
enseñamos	we teach
hay una cosita	there is one little thing
trae sus muñecas	she brings her dolls
últimamente	lately
se distraen	they get distracted
he notado	I've noticed
estar jugando	to be playing
los amigos	the friends
empiezan a platicar	they start to chit-chat
la culpa	the blame
permiso	I allow
está tan apegada	she is so attached
la deja calva (ella)	she is leaving it bald
trenzas	braids
chongos	buns (hair)

los niños se apegan	children get attached
juguetes	toys
le he dado el permiso (a ella)	I've given her permission
no durante clase	not during class
lo que le está perturbando (a Ud.)	what is disturbing you
¿Qué sugiere que yo haga?	What do you suggest that I do?
lo que le sugeriría (yo)	what I would suggest
leer más rápido	to read more quickly
para que comprenda (ella)	so that she comprehends
la puede llevar (Ud.)	you can take her
la biblioteca	the library

Señor Sandoval Profesora Flores, ¿verdad?

Professor Flores, right?

Profesora Flores Sí. [Hola] Buenas tardes.

Yes. [Hello] Good Afternoon.

Señor Sandoval Buenas tardes, yo soy el Señor Sandoval. Soy padre de Jaslín.

Good afternoon, I am Mr. Sandoval. I'm Jaslín's father.

Profesora Flores Mucho gusto Señor Sandoval. Por favor tome asiento.

Nice to meet you Mr. Sandoval. Please take a seat

Señor Sandoval Gracias, gracias.

Thank you, thank you.

Profesora Flores Mire, eh, en estas reuniones, hablamos acerca de las calificaciones de sus niños, de su niña, Jaslin, y vemos en cada materia cómo va, qué es lo que aprende, y cómo puede mejorar sus calificaciones.

Look, uh, in these meetings, we talk about the grades of your children, of your child, Jaslin, and we see in each subject how it is going, what it is that she is learning, and how she can improve her grades.

Profesora Flores Eh, Jaslin es una niña muy, ahm, activa. Siempre es atenta a todo lo que le enseñamos. Pero hay una cosita que siempre trae sus muñecas. Ha estado... últimamente ha estado trayendo sus muñecas y parece que las niñas o los otros niños se distraen también. Ahm, no habría mucho problema si ella trae su muñeca, pero el problema es que se está distrayendo mucho. Y he notado que en algunas de las materias, ella puede estar jugando con su muñequita o algunos de los amigos o de las niñas empiezan a platicar.

Uh, Jaslin is a very, um, active girl. She is always attentive to everything that we teach her. But there is one little thing that she always brings her dolls. She has been... lately she has been bringing her dolls and it seems like the girls or the other children get distracted as well. Um, there wouldn't be much of a problem if she brings her doll, but the problem is that she is getting distracted a lot. and I've noticed that in some of the subjects, she can be playing with her little doll or some of her friends or of the children begin to chat.

Señor Sandoval Está bien, sí, sabe que mucha de la culpa es mía. Yo permito a Jaslín que se lleve sus muñecas porque está tan apegada a sus muñecas. Es más, a una de ellas ya casi la deja calva de tantas trenzas y chongos que le ha hecho.

Alright, yes, you know that much of the blame is mine. I allow Jaslín to take her dolls because she is so attached to her dolls. What's more, she's almost left one of them bald from so many braids and buns that she has done to it.

Señor Sandoval Pero, pues, como usted sabe, los niños se apegan a sus...a sus juguetes y ella con sus muñecas es muy apegada. Y yo le he dado el permiso que ella se las lleve a la escuela para que juegue, pero no durante clase, eso sí le he dicho, entonces ahora sí entiendo que...que es lo que le está perturbando. ¿Y, usted, que sugiere que yo haga con ella?

But, well, as you know, children get very attached to their...to their toys and with her dolls, she is very attached. And I have given her permission for her to take them to school so that she might play, but not during class, that I have told her, so now I do understand what... what it is that is bothering you. And, you, what do you suggest that I do with her?

Profesora Flores Bueno, mire, para todas las materias está bien. Lo que le sugeriría para, ahm, que ella aprenda a leer más rápido, o, ahm, para que comprenda lo que está leyendo también es que usted la puede llevar a la biblioteca.

Well, look, for all the subjects she is fine. What I would suggest so, um, that she might learn to read faster, or, um, so that she might understand what she is reading also is that you can take her to the library.

Reunión Con La Profesora, Part II

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

Have you ever had a chance to use Spanish in a school setting? Do you think you could carry out parent-teacher conferences in Spanish if you were a teacher? I have found that a big part of learning to communicate in another language is learning situational vocabulary. For example, if you are a teacher, you should learn educational vocabulary like this. If you are a software developer (like me), you should study lots of computer-related vocabulary. Studying topics that are relevant and interesting to you personally is helpful for a number of reasons--i.e. you will enjoy learning it more, remember it better, and have more opportunity to practice! So, what is your topic of interest?

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
la biblioteca más cercana	the closest library
lean juntos	read together
déjela que ella elija	let her choose
diviértase	have fun
su hija	your daughter
por lo menos	at least
una hora al día	an hour a day
lo voy a intentar	I'm going to try it
algunas horas libres	a few free hours
afuera de lo común	out of the ordinary
como usted me sugiere	like you suggest
encontramos un libro	we'll find a book
en la casa	at home
claro	of course
una muy buena opción	a very good choice
qué gusto	what a pleasure
muchos padres	many parents
platicar	to chat
lo felicito	I commend you
ayudar	to help
su parte (de Ud.)	your part
en el próximo	at the next one
espero	I hope
el progreso	the progress

seguro que sí	certainly
estas circunstancias	these circumstances
gracias por venir	thanks for coming
qué le vaya bien	fare well

Profesora Flores Vayan a la biblioteca más cercana que tengan y lean juntos. Hay muchos libros, solamente déjela que ella elige el libro que ella quiera leer, y diviértase con su hija. Por lo menos, una hora al día o una hora cada dos días, como usted decida pero algo que los dos puedan divertirse y aprender.

Go to the closest library that you have and read together. There are many books, just let her choose the book that she wants to read, and have fun with your daughter. At least, one hour a day, or one hour every two days, however you decide but something that both of you can have fun and learn.

Señor Sandoval Está bien. Entonces, pues, eso lo voy a intentar. Es más, voy a estar tarde...tengo algunas horas libres, ahm, entonces lo que voy a hacer es que de una manera, ah, le voy a decir a Jaslín es que vamos a hacer algo diferente, afuera de lo común, y vamos a ir a la biblioteca así como usted me sugiere.

Alright. So, well, I am going to try that. It's more, this afternoon I'm going to be... I have a few free hours, um, so what I'm going to do is somehow, uh, I'm going to tell Jaslín the thing is we're going to do something different, out of the ordinary, and we're going to go to the library just like you suggest to me.

Señor Sandoval Y encontramos un libro que a ella le gusta, quizás hasta un libro de unas muñecas. Así ella puede leer de unas muñecas y las muñecas las puede dejar en la casa y no levárselas a la...a la escuela, ¿verdad que sí?

And we'll find a book that she likes, maybe even a book about some dolls. So that she can read about some dolls and she can leave the dolls at home and not take them to...to school, right?

Profesora Flores Claro, claro, creo que sería una muy buena opción [Ándale pues]. Y pues, qué gusto Señor Sandoval que usted se esté preocupando por su hija. No muchos padres, eh, hacen eso, que vienen, ahm, a platicar con nosotros. Verdad lo felicito, porque a mí me da mucho gusto que nosotros podamos ayudar a sus hijos, pero que ustedes también hagan su parte; y lo felicito. Espero que podamos verlo en el próximo...en los próximos meses y ver, ah, el progreso de su hija.

Of course, of course, I believe it would be a very good option [Alright then]. And well, what a pleasure Mr. Sandoval that you are worrying about your daughter. Not many fathers, uh, do that, come, um, to chat with us. I really congratulate you, because it is a pleasure to me that we can help your children, but that you also do your part; and I congratulate you. I hope that we can see you at the next one... and the next months and see, uh, the progress of your daughter.

Señor Sandoval Seguro que sí. Y espero que en la próxima visita ya sea para hablar de donde Jaslín ha mejorado en sus calificaciones y no en estas circunstancias, ¿verdad?

Certainly. And I hope that in the next visit it might be to talk about where Jaslín has improved in her grades and not in these circumstances, right?

Profesora Flores Claro, eh, mucho...muchas gracias por venir Señor Sandoval [Ándale pues] y pues nos vemos en la próxima visita.

Of course, uh, much... thank you very much for coming Mr. Sandoval [Alright then] and well we'll see you in the next visit.

Señor Sandoval Ok, gracias Profesora Flores, hasta luego.

Ok, thank you Professor Flores, see you later.

Profesora Flores Hasta luego, qué le vaya bien.

See you later, fare well.

Señor Sandoval Chao.

Ciao.

Diferencias Culturales (Cultural Differences)

Hablantes: Tatiana y Antonina de La Paz, Bolivia.

Have you ever had the opportunity to live for an extended period of time in a foreign country? I don't think you can truly appreciate and understand your home until you have lived away from it. I feel the same way about language, which is why I feel it is so important to learn a second language. I don't think you really come to appreciate and understand your native language until you have learned another one. Learning about different cultures and peoples broadens our horizons and opens doors to new worlds.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
vamos a hablar de	we're going to talk about
las diferencias sociales	the social differences
hemos podido ver	we have been able to see
nos ha impactado	it has impacted us
las salidas	the exits / the outings
el sexo opuesto	the opposite sex
es tan diferente	it's so different
en mi primera cita	on my first date
yo pensaba	I thought
salir con alguien	to go out with someone
tenía que ser	it had to be
la casa de mis papás	my parents' house
pedir permiso	to ask permission
un compromiso	a commitment / engagement
algo de respecto	something
el muchacho	the boy
ya es bastante	it's already quite a lot
ir al cine	to go to the movies
fue tan chocante	it was so shocking
cualquier persona	any person / anyone
me invitó (él)	he invited me
llamar	to call
muy costoso	very costly/expensive
me tuve que ir acostumbrando	I had to start getting used to
estar comprometidos	to be engaged
casarse	to get married
antes de venirme aquí	before coming here

presión	pressure
formar una familia	to form a family

Tatiana	Bueno, vamos a hablar ahora del...de las diferencias que hemos visto aquí,de las diferencias sociales que hemos podido ver aquí.
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Alright, we're going to talk now about the... about the differences that we have seen here, about the social differences that we have been able to see here.

Antonina	Una de las cosas que más nos ha impactado ha sido el "dating" o [O sea las salidas]. Las salidas con el sexo opuesto. En Bolivia es tan diferente. Bueno, no sé si es en Bolivia o en todo Centroamérica.
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One of the things that has impacted us most has been "dating" or [Or dates]. Dates with the opposite sex. In Bolivia it's different. Well, I don't know if it's in Bolivia or in all Central America.

Tatiana	O en nuestra familia.
---------	-----------------------

Or in our family.

Antonina	O en nosotras.
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Or in us.

Tatiana	Pero yo me acuerdo que en mi primera cita, la tuve cuando tuve dieciocho años.
---------	--

But I remember that on my first date, I had it when I was eighteen years old.

Antonina	Y yo también, cuando tuve dieciocho años. Yo pensaba que la primera vez que iba a salir con alguien, tenía que ser como...como fue. Él tuvo que ir a la casa de mis papás, pedir permiso y decir, "quiero empezar a salir con su hija." Entonces mis papás decían, "ok, está bien, pueden empezar a salir." No era como un compromiso que teníamos que hacer, pero era como algo de respecto por mostrar que estabas saliendo con alguien.
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And I as well, when I was eighteen years old. I thought that the first time that you were going to go out with someone, it had to be like...like it was. He had to go to my parents' house, he had to ask permission and say, "I want to start going out with your daughter." Then my parents would say, "ok, that's fine, you can start going out." It wasn't like a commitment that we had to do, but it was like something respectful for showing that you were going out with someone.

Tatiana	Exacto, y el muchacho tenía que ir a la casa, hablar con mi papá, que eso ya es bastante, y pedir permiso para ir al cine con nosotras o para hacer algo y... pero aquí fue tan chocante que todas las personas salen con todos y con cualquier persona.
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Exactly, and the boy had to go to the house, to talk with my dad, that was already quite a lot, and to ask him permission to go to the movies with us or to do something and... but here it was so shocking that all the people go out with everyone and with anyone.

Antonina	Entre todos y con todos.
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Among everyone and with everyone.

Tatiana	¿Te acuerdas cuando la primera vez alguien me invitó aquí a salir? Yo decía, "tienes que llamar a mi papá." Pero, creo que llamar a Bolivia va a salir muy costoso. Y él no sabía hablar español, así que eso fue algo que me tuve que ir acostumbrando.
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Do you remember when the first time someone invited me here to go out? I said, "you have to call my dad." But, I think that calling Bolivia is going to end up very expensive. And he didn't know how to speak Spanish, so that was something that I had to start getting used to.

Antonina	Y otra cosa que también es diferente en unas relaciones es el tiempo que puede salir. Allá hay personas que pueden estar saliendo como ocho años y luego estar comprometidos por tres años y luego piensan en casarse.
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And another thing that is also different in relationships is the time that you can go out. Over there there are people that can be going out like eight years and later be engaged for three years and later they think about getting married.

Tatiana	Exactamente. Yo estuve saliendo con un muchacho por dos años antes de venirme aquí. Y...y era normal, no...no había presión para venir, para casarse o para...para empezar a formar una familia, algo que aquí vimos es que cuando sales con una persona, te preguntan,"¿cuándo te vas a casar?" Cuando te casas con la persona, te dicen,"¿cuándo vas a tener hijos?" Y cuando tienes hijos, te dicen,"¿cuándo viene el segundo?" O sea hay presión y presión y presión.
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Exactly. I was going out with a boy for two years before coming here. And..and it was normal, ...there wasn't pressure to come, to get married or to... to start forming a family, something that here we saw is that when you go out with a person they ask you, "when are you going to get married?" When you get married with the person they tell you, "when are you going to have kids?" And when you have kids, they tell you, "when is the second one coming?" I mean there is pressure and pressure and pressure.

Antonina	Exacto.
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Exactly.

Diferencias en El Noviazgo (Differences in Dating)

Hablantes: Tatiana y Antonina de La Paz, Bolivia.

What was dating like where you grew up? I remember that I thought my parents were very strict because they wouldn't let us date until we were 16 years old. That doesn't seem so bad now compared to Tatiana and Antonina's parents in Bolivia. Do you feel like society has gotten too relaxed with dating and courtship etiquette? Maybe the more respectful and antiquated customs in Bolivia are better. What do you think?

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
la misma persona	the same person
supuestamente	supposedly
más de una vez	more than once
tu novio	your boyfriend
sin que digan nada	without them saying anything
por tercera vez	for the third time
no se hace en Bolivia	it isn't done in Bolivia
te preguntan	they ask you
una relación	a relationship
al día siguiente	the next day
fue muy difícil	it was very difficult
respetar	to respect
salir con las personas	to go out with people
algo que admiro	something that I admire
cuando yo era pequeña	when I was little
me refería a	I was referring to
se enamoran	the fall in love
un compromiso	a commitment / engagement
son más fieles	they are more faithful
chequear a las chicas	to check out the girls
están casados	they are married
las personas son bien directas	the people are really direct
honestas	honest

Antonina	Otra cosa que nos ha impactado es que aquí muchas...muchas veces los chicos empiezan a salir con la misma persona y supuestamente cuando ya salen más de una vez, ya es tu novio. Y si te sale por tercera vez, tú tienes que decir--sin que digan nada--tienes como, "ah-jah, es mi novio." Pero...cosa que no se hace en Bolivia. En Bolivia las personas se tienen que decir, "¿quieres ser mi chico?"
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Another thing that has impacted us is that here many... many times the boys start to go out with the same person and supposedly when you go out more than once, now he is your boyfriend. And if he takes you out three times, you have to say-- without them saying anything-- you have to like, "uh-huh, he's my boyfriend." But...a thing that isn't done in Bolivia. In Bolivia the people have to say to each other, "do you want to be my boy?"

Tatiana	Te preguntan y tú sabes que tienes una relación. Pero aquí puedes salir con una persona y al día siguiente salir con otra persona y al día siguiente con otra persona.
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They ask you and you know that you have a relationship. But here you can go out with one person and the next day go out with another person and the next day with another person.

Tatiana	Y eso fue muy difícil, porque cuando...si tú haces esas cosas en Bolivia, piensan que...que te gusta salir con las personas y que no te haces respetar. Pero aquí salir con varias personas es muy diferente. Es como...es normal.
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And that was very difficult, because when... if you do those things in Bolivia, they think that... that you like to go out with people and that you don't respect yourself. But here going out with several people is very different. It's like...it's normal.

Antonina	Pero algo que admiro aquí en...en las personas, más que todo en los muchachos es que... cuando yo era pequeña, siempre decía, "quiero salir con alguien como...como él." Y me refería a un americano, porque yo sé que cuando ellos se enamoran de alguien, o cuando ellos están detrás de una chica, solamente es esa chica. O sea cuando ya están en la parte de...de un compromiso.
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But something that I admire here in... in people, more that everything in the boys is that... when I was little, I always said, "I want to go out with someone like...like him." And I was referring to an American, because I know that when they fall in love with someone, or when they are behind a girl, it's only that girl. Meaning when they are in the part of... of a commitment.

Tatiana	Exacto son... se puede decir que los americanos son más fieles que los latinos, porque los latinos...
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Exactly they are... you can say that the Americans are more faithful than the Latinos, because the Latinos...

Antonina	Son muy--como se llama esta palabra--son muy chequeadores.
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Are very--what's this word called-- they are very "checkers".

Tatiana	Exacto, les gusta chequear a las chicas. Aun cuando están casados a veces.
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Exactly, they like to check out the girls. Even when they are married sometimes.

Antonina	Y eso es un problema, pero es algo que me gusta aquí, que las personas son...son bien directas y también son bien honestas. ++con unas++
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And that is a problem, but it's something that I like here, that the people are... are really direct and also are really honest.

Tatiana	Bien fieles.
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Really faithful.

Antonina	Mmhmm.
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Mmhmm.

~ ADVANCED ~

Unos Consejos (Some advice)

Hablantes: Eva de El Salvador y Lilian de Guatemala.

Usually a great way to practice your developing language skills with a native speaker is to ask them for advice. Especially here in the United States, most of them are in the same boat you are, trying to learn a foreign language. You will be able to relate to a lot of the experiences that they have had learning English. Let's ask our friends from Central America for some advice.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
un consejo	a piece of advice
algo que me funcionó	something that worked for me
personalmente	personally
lógicamente	logically
me sirvió mucho	it helped (served) me a lot
escribir palabras	to write words
traducir	to translate
yo preguntaba	I asked
¿Cómo se pronuncia?	How do you pronounce it?
el significado	the meaning
leer el periódico	to read the newspaper
por lo menos	at least
memorizar	to memorize
cuatro palabras diarias	four daily words
me ponía a pensar	I started to think / I got to thinking
aprender	to learn
se burlaban de mí	they made fun of me
me decían	they told me
me di cuenta	I realized
lo buscaba	I looked for it
el diccionario	the dictionary
una libretita	a notebook
diariamente	daily
inglés nativo	native English
imitar el acento	imitate the accent
lo más que podía	as much as I could

con facilidad	with ease / easily
un acento muy fuerte	a very strong accent
cuesta mucho entender	it is hard to understand / it takes a lot to understand
al menos	at least
dos oraciones	two sentences
ponerlos en práctica	to put them in practice

Eva	Un consejo que yo diría, algo que me funcionó personalmente, aprendiendo otro idioma, inglés lógicamente. Ahm, alguien quien quiere aprender español o qué sé yo.... Me sirvió mucho a mí, es escribir palabras, y las traducía, y las traducía a ver que eran, y luego yo preguntaba cuando estaba yendo a la escuela, "¿cómo se dice? ¿Cómo se pronuncia? ¿Cómo se pronuncia?" Y yo aprendí palabras por palabras, [Sí] Ahm, para ver el significado de las cosas.
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A piece of advice that I would say, something that worked for me personally, learning another language, English logically. Um, someone who wants to learn Spanish or what do I know... What helped me a lot, is to write words, and I would translate them, I would translate them to see what they were, and later I would ask when I was going to school, "how do you say it? How do you pronounce it? How do you pronounce it?" And I learned words by words, um, to see the meaning of things.

Lilian	Algo que a mí me funcionó mucho fue leer el periódico.
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Something that worked for me a lot was reading the newspaper.

Lilian	Y me recuerdo que trataba de por lo menos memorizar cuatro palabras diarias. Porque yo me ponía a pensar que si aprendía cuatro palabras diarias, iba a aprender al fin de la semana cuantas palabras y al... y si pones al mes, ya eran muchas palabras. Y me ayudó mucho a le...leer el periódico, y a veces se burlaban de mí mis hermanas, porque me decían que yo no entendía lo que estaba leyendo. Pero, yo s...me di cuenta que hay palabras que...que se parecen mucho como al...al español. [Sí] Y yo decía, "ah, pues eso significa eso, Y yo lo buscaba en el diccionario así como vos, así lo hacía yo también [Sí]. Luego lo buscaba y ya, "ah sí significa, así pues, significa lo mismo." Y lo...lo escribía en una...en una libretita, y tenía el propósito de usarlo diariamente. Y ah...y le preguntaba a alguien que hablara inglés nativo, porque no quería aprender el inglés con tanto acento.
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And I remember that I would try to at least memorize four daily words. Because I started to think that if I learned four daily words, I was going to learn at the end of the week how many words and at the... and if you put in per month, then it was a lot of words. And it helped me a lot to re...to read the newspaper, and sometimes my sisters made fun of me, because they said that I didn't understand what I was reading. But I did...I realized that there are words that... that seem a lot like ... Spanish. [Yes] And I would say, "oh, well that means that." And I would look in the dictionary just like you, that's how I did it also [Yes]. Later I looked for it and then, "oh yes it means, well like this, it means the same thing." And I would write...it in a... in a little notebook, and I had the goal of using it daily. And uh...and I would ask someone that spoke native English, because I didn't want to learn English with so much of an accent.

Eva	Claro.
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Of course.

Lilian	Y le preguntaba, siempre le decía a alguien que hablara inglés de toda su vida, le decía, "¿y cómo se dice esto?" Y ya me decía, y yo trataba de imitar el acento lo más que podía, no porque no quería tener acento porque me avergüence de lo que soy, sino porque yo quería que me entendieran con facilidad;
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And I would ask him, I would always say to someone that spoke English his whole life, I would say, "and how do you say this?" And then he would tell me, and and would try to imitate the accent as much as I could, not because I didn't want to have an accent because I am ashamed of what I am, but because I wanted them to understand me easily;

Lilian	porque si tienes un acento muy fuerte en el teléfono, cuesta mucho entender.
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because if you have a very strong accent on the phone, it's really hard to understand.

Eva	Sí.
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Yes.

Lilian	Porque pues...bueno, al menos, y eso es lo que a mí me parecía. Y fue lo que más me ayudó, era que si yo aprendiera cuatro palabras nuevas en un día, trataba en, por lo menos, dos oraciones, ponerlos en práctica. [Eso ayuda mucho] Eso a mí me ayudó.
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Because well...ok, at least, and that is what it seemed liked to me. And what helped me most was that if I learned four new words in a day, I tried in, at least, two sentences, to put them in practice. [That helps a lot] That helped me.

Aprender Inglés (Learning English)

Hablantes: Eva de El Salvador y Lilian de Guatemala.

Learning another language, for most people, is difficult and takes much commitment; but it can be a lot of fun. A friend recently commented, "I have had more passion about learning Spanish than almost anything I have done for a long time." I love to hear the diverse experiences people have while learning a new language. For the ones that stay committed and dedicated throughout the years, it becomes a life-changing and life-enriching experience.

<u>Vocabulario</u>	
hablo inglés un poco	I speak English a little
perfecto	perfect
 viniendo de otros países	coming from other countries
otra lengua nativa	another native tongue/language
me encanta leer libros	I love to read books
depende	it depends
qué tan grande es	how big it is
es increíble	it's incredible
lo que he notado	what I have noticed
he visto	I've seen
en voz alta	out loud
me ayuda mucho más	it helps me a lot more
nadie	no one
escucharme	to listen to me
perder	to lose
la barrera	the obstacle
tener miedo	to be afraid
no importa si	it doesn't matter if
vergüenza	shame / embarrassment
vas a sonar mal	you're going to sound bad
me acuerdo	I remember / I recall
comenzando	starting / commencing
el bachillerato	high school diploma
empecé a trabajar	I started working
un banco	a bank
con tal que me entiendan	as long as they understand me
al principio	at first

expresar	to Express
tratar de practicarlo	to try to practice it
entender	to understand
entre más practicas	the more you practice
tu lengua	your tongue
soltarse	to get looser

Eva	Yo hablo inglés un poco, me entiendes, pero n...claro, lógicamente no va a ser perfecto y nunca va a ser perfecto, nosotros viniendo de otros países y tenemos otra lengua nativa; va a ser muy difícil. Pero a mí me encanta leer libros. Me encanta. Yo me puedo terminar--bueno depende qué tan grande es el libro. Pero, puedo terminar de leer un libro muy rápido. Y es increíble cómo me ayuda. Y lo que he visto es que, lo que he notado es que si yo lo leo, y lo leo en voz alta, me ayuda mucho más. Nadie quiere está...escucharme todo el tiempo, verdad, pero me gusta leerlos en voz alta, porque me ayuda mucho con mi inglés.
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I speak a little English, you understand, but not...of course, logically it's not going to be perfect and it's never going to be perfect, us coming from other countries and we have another native tongue; it's going to be very difficult. But I love to read books. I love it. I can finish my-- well it depends how big the book is. But, I can finish reading a book very quickly. And it's incredible how it helps me. And what I have seen is that, what I have noticed is that if I read, and I read out loud, it helps me a lot more. No one wants to be...to listen to me all the time, right, but I like to read them out loud, because it helps me a lot with my English.

Lilian	Primero que nada yo creo que ayuda a perder el miedo también [Sí], porque ese es el...el...la barrera más grande es tener miedo. No importa si estás aprendiendo portugués, si estás aprendiendo italiano, lo que estés aprendiendo. Si tienes miedo o vergüenza, nunca vas a super...tienes que perder ese miedo.
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Before anything I think that it helps to lose the fear also [Yes], because that is the...the...the biggest obstacle is being afraid. It doesn't matter if you are learning Portuguese, if you are learning Italian, whatever you might be learning. if you are afraid or embarrassed, you're never going to over... you have to lose that fear.

Eva	[Y] Vergüenza que vas a sonar mal.
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[And] Embarrassment that you are going to sound bad.

Lilian	Sí, no importa si hablas con acento, lo importante es hablarlo.
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Yes, it doesn't matter if you speak with an accent, what matters is to speak it.

Eva	Sí, sí, yo me acuerdo comenzando, justo después de salir del bachillerato, empecé a trabajar en un banco, entonces claro la gente me hablaba en inglés. Y yo me acuerdo que yo pensaba, "bueno, no me importa si tengo acento, con tal que me entiendan." Ahm claro al principio no porque tenía poquito tiempo estar acá. "Con tal que me entiendan, y yo pueda expresarme." Y practicando está bien, entonces yo trataba de entender el lenguaje, como las palabras diferentes que nunca había escuchado o algo así. Y luego tratar de practicarlo--entre más practicas, más tu lengua se suelta.
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Yes, yes, I remember starting out, right after leaving high school, I started to work at a bank, so of course people spoke to me in English. And I remember that I thought, "alright, I don't care if I have an accent, as long as they understand me." Um of course at first no because I had very little time being here. "As long as they understand me, and I can express myself." And practicing is good, so I tried to understand the language, like the different words that I had never heard or something like that. And later trying to practice it-- the more you practice, the more your tongue loosens up.