Lesson 9: Interviewer Intro

**Male Interviewer:** Hola, y bienvenidos a la ciudad de México.

**Female Interviewer:** Hello, and welcome to Mexico City.

**Male Interviewer:** Hey, I just said that.

**Female Interviewer:** Yes, well that is because I am translating accurately.

**Male Interviewer:** Esta es Maria, y yo soy Jose. Estamos encantado ser tus guías.

**Female Interviewer:** My name is Maria, and this is Jose. We are honored to be your guides. ¿Alguno de ustedes habla o entiende español?

**Male Interviewer:** Yo entiendo. I understand.

**Female Interviewer:** No, not you Jose.

**Male Interviewer:** Oh si, lo siento.

**Female Interviewer:** As I was saying, do any of you speak or understand Spanish. If you do, perhaps you can share what you understand. But we will translate, so don’t worry if you don’t. La ciudad de Mexico es un ciudad grande.

**Male Interviewer:** Mexico City is a big place.

**Female Interviewer:** Y no tenemos mucho tiempo.

**Male Interviewer:** And we haven’t much time.

**Female Interviewer:** Asi que empezar.

**Male Interviewer:** So let’s begin. Mexico City has a population of over 20 million people. It is the center Mexico’s government, and it is the center culture for Mexico.

**Female Interviewer:** We will be visiting four neighborhoods in different parts of the city.

**Male Interviewer:** Diverse neighborhoods! And we will be meeting people who live very different lives.
Female Interviewer: We will ask them questions about how they live. Their answers will help you complete your surveys.

Male Interviewer: Pay close attention though. You won’t get every answer to your survey questions. Only what people are willing.

Female Interviewer: or able

Male Interviewer: to tell us. Ready?

Female Interviewer: Si, vamos.

Male Interviewer: Let’s go.
Lesson 9: Interviews

Lesson 9: Interview with Rosa Muñoz

Female Interviewer: This is Rosa Muñoz, her grandson Rafael, and her granddaughter Ana.

Rosa: It’s my pleasure. Wait… [An airplane loudly flies overhead.] We will be able to hear now, at least for a moment anyway.

Male Interviewer: Is this where you live?

Rosa: I live here, behind the hanging clothes, in that corrugated tin shelter. I live here with my family. There are seven of us.

Male Interviewer: How long have you lived here?

Rosa: Not long—for a few months. My family moved from Puebla, a small farming community not far from here. We lived on a farm there. It’s very different here.

Female Interviewer: Why did you and your family move here?

Rosa: My family owned a farm where we grew and sold corn and beans, but the big commercial farming companies can grow and sell these same crops much more cheaply. So we sold the farm and moved here. We hope to find more opportunities here, but it’s been hard.

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Rosa: My family owned a farm where we grew and sold corn and beans, but the big commercial farming companies can grow and sell these same crops much more cheaply. So we sold the farm and moved here. We hope to find more opportunities here, but it’s been hard.

Female Interviewer: What is it liked to live here?
Rosa: It’s crowded. There’s no water or plumbing here at all. That means no shower or bath, no toilet or sink. However, more than half of the people who live in these make-shift structures do have plumping. It is hard. There are so many people here, but there is very little open, or green space. And certainly, none of it is green. I wish there were green spaces so I could have a garden.

Female Interviewer: Does your son go to school?

Rosa: When we can afford it—in terms of time. Public schools are free here, but many kids here must work to help feed and support their families. Have you seen young children on the street or in the plaza selling gum to tourists? They should be in school, but they need to work instead. More than half of the children here are able to go to school past primary school, but at the same time, many are unable to do so.

You are lucky to go to school. Hard to believe, huh?

Female Interviewer: Thank you very much for your time, Rosa.
Lesson 9: Interview with Señor Alvarez

Señor Alvarez: Hello! Welcome! Do you need anything from the market next door?

Female Interviewer: Is it good to have your shoe shop next to the market?

Señor Alvarez: Yes, it’s a good location. Everyone needs to eat, no? Everyone walks by the store on their way to the market and are reminded of their shoes. It’s natural that they’d come in.

Male Interviewer: Do you have any kids?

Señor Alvarez: Yes, I have three beautiful daughters. Very beautiful! They are at school now, and then they will come here after school. They go to private school near here. It is very expensive to go to private school, but I know how important education can be to their future—better jobs, better housing, better everything. I didn’t get past primary school, and I hope for a better life for my daughters. In this area, the majority of children attend school past the primary grades, and that is good for my daughters as well.

Male Interviewer: What is it like to live in this neighborhood?

Señor Alvarez: Because there are so many people, there is a lot of crime on the streets, but this area is safer than others. The government recognizes the need to protect the businesses of hardworking people. There are almost 800 police officers assigned to this neighborhood. Without the police, we wouldn’t have a business, and without a business, my family and I would not eat.

Female Interviewer: How densely populated is this neighborhood?

Señor Alvarez: It is very crowded. Do you know how many people live in Los Angeles? Here in Mexico City, there are nearly 25,000 people per square mile. That is four times greater than in Los Angeles. Four times as many! Can you imagine? The great number of people makes everything harder. I am lucky to have this business next to the market, and I feel confident that my family will be OK. I am able to take care of my beautiful, beautiful daughters.

Male Interviewer: Thank you for your time, Señor Alvarez.
Lesson 9: Interview with Maria Gonzalez

Señora Gonzalez: Welcome to my home! These are my children: Miguel, Mateo, Mario, and Maria. Today’s laundry day. Be careful, I may put you too work.

Female Interviewer: Thank you for taking a moment out of your day to talk. I have some questions. Could you tell me about your house?

Señora Gonzalez: The house is made of cement, or cinder, block, and has a roof of corrugated tin. Most of my neighbors have homes made of similar materials. There is no insulation, so it gets as hot or as cold as it does outside. And it’s loud when it rains. We do have indoor plumbing, as do the majority of our neighbors. However, we only have cold water. I know we have it better than others. At least, these houses are made of good materials. They do not fall down.

Male Interviewer: Are there green spaces nearby?

Señora Gonzalez: There are no parks nearby. In this neighborhood, green space per person is very small—and I wish I lived on my share of it.

Male Interviewer: Thank you for talking with me.
Lesson 9: Interview with Sergio

Male Interview: Could you answer some questions for us in Spanish?

Sergio: Yes, of course! Welcome!

Male Interview: What’s it like to move back here after living in the States for seven years?

Sergio: It’s still very crowded. There are about 25,000 people per square mile.

Male Interview: It’s nice here though.

Sergio: Yes, this neighborhood is comfortable.

Male Interview: Is that because of the construction of the houses?

Sergio: Yes, nearly all of the houses in this area are built with good materials—that is, better than adequate materials. And it shows doesn’t it?

Female Interview: Your house is beautiful.

Sergio: Thank you. People here take pride in their property.

Female Interview: Do you have much crime in this area?

Sergio: No, not much. I think around 1,300 officers are assigned to this area.

Female Interview: That’s a lot, right? More than most areas?

Sergio: I guess that’s true. People here do feel more protective of what they have.

Female Interview: Thank you!