# Spanish C Voices

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Authentic Listening and Reading Practice in Spanish from Around Latin America and Spain



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Practice in Spanish from
Around Latin America and Spain



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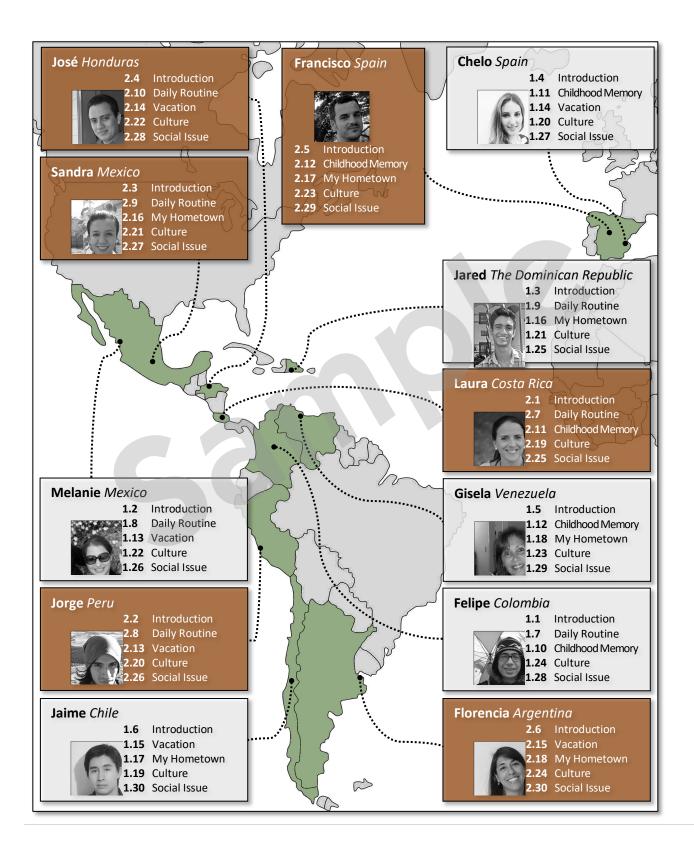
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#### Accompanying audio and online resources are available at:

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# Introduction

#### What is Spanish Voices?

Spanish Voices is a two-part series of short audio essays by contributors from around Latin America and Spain. Each speaker has provided a total of five audio essays, including a self-introduction, essays on cultural and social issues, as well as various personal topics such as vacations, childhood memories, their daily routines, and their hometowns. Each book features six speakers and 30 audio essay chapters, called segments. A segment consists of a transcription (text), English translation, as well as exercises designed to help you expand your vocabulary and improve your listening skills.

#### On www.lingualism.com/sv2 you can:

- download or stream the accompanying audio tracks for **free**.
- practice the vocabulary and expressions with online interactive flashcards, quizzes, and games.

#### How is Spanish Voices different?

What makes *Spanish Voices* a unique and powerful learning tool is that the material is based on recordings of native speakers speaking naturally and off-the-cuff—not voice actors reading prepared scripts. You will hear the speakers occasionally make what you are sure are mistakes; and you're likely right. Words may be mispronounced or misused; grammatical rules may not always be followed; sentences may be left unfinished if the speaker decides to rephrase what they are saying. This poses an extra challenge for listening. However, it is also very insightful to hear natural, spoken Spanish at various speeds, in all its varieties, and by a range of native speakers. This is, unfortunately, something most coursebooks lack in favor of carefully prepared, unnaturally slow listenings in a neutral accent. It is hoped that the *Spanish Voices* series fills this gap to provide some refreshingly natural, challenging opportunities for improving listening skills.

#### Can I benefit from this book at my level of Spanish?

This book is best suited for intermediate and more advanced learners. However, even lower-level students can benefit from listening to and studying the segments. Just keep in mind that the goal is **not** to understand 100%. The first time you listen, depending on your level, you may understand, say, 1%, 10%, 50%, or 90% of what you hear in a segment. If, after going through the exercises and studying the text while relistening several times, you manage to increase the percentage you can understand, you will have made progress and are successfully developing your skills and pushing your level up. Taking this approach, the material in *Spanish Voices* can be useful to learners at a wide range of levels.

# How to Use This Book

To get the most out of this book, you need to exercise a bit of **discipline**—discipline to resist reading the texts and their translations before you have thoroughly studied the listenings. This cannot be emphasized enough. Once you have read the texts and translations, the dynamics of what you can obtain from listening to the segments change fundamentally. You should first listen to a segment *several* times while working your way through the exercises. These have been designed to help you first understand the gist and gradually discover details as you relisten. Only once you have come to understand as much as you can through the exercises should you move on to study the text and translation that follow. This approach will result in maximum efficiency in improving your listening skills. A step-by-step guideline follows:

#### Guidelines

- 1. CHOOSE A SEGMENT TO STUDY: The segments can be studied in any order; however, there is somewhat of a gradual progression from shorter and slower segments to longer and faster segments through each book. The box to the right of the segment's title shows the speaker's name and country of origin, as well as the number of words in the audio essay and the rate of speech the speaker uses (words per minute). The MP3s that accompany *Spanish Voices* are available as free downloads at www.lingualism.com/sv2.
- 2. TITLE AND KEY WORDS: Before you listen the first time, be sure to read the title of the segment and look over the "True or False" questions. Going into a listening "blind"—without having any context, without even knowing the topic—makes listening comprehension in a foreign language extremely difficult. Just by knowing the general topic, we are able to improve the amount we can understand, as we are able to draw on knowledge from our past experiences, anticipate what might be said, recognize known words, and guess new words and phrases.
- 3. **TRUE OR FALSE**: Answer the "True or False" questions. (Do not read ahead to the multiple-choice questions as some of these questions themselves may answer the true-false questions.) If you feel unsure of your answers, listen to the audio again before checking your answers. You will notice that a small number follows most answers in the answer key. These numbers correspond to the line number in the text and translation that reveals the answer. If you do not understand why you got an answer wrong, quickly look at the text and/or translation for that line number. (Here's where you have to use your self-discipline not to read beyond the specified line number!) Listen again and place a check next to each true or false question as you hear the answer.
- 4. **EXPRESSIONS:** *Match the Spanish words and phrases to their English translations.* The vocabulary focuses mostly on high-frequency adverbs, connectors, and phrases. You will learn by spending time playing with the words, trying to match them up by process of elimination and educated guesses. So don't look up the answers too quickly! After you've matched the words and checked your answers, listen again while you check off the items as you hear them.
- 5. **MULTIPLE CHOICE:** *Answer the "Multiple Choice" questions.* Follow the same guidelines as for the *true or false* questions. Note that both the *true or false* and *multiple-choice* questions are based on

- information found in the segment, according to the information provided by the speaker, regardless of the accuracy of the information. You can think of each question as being preceded by "According to <u>the speaker</u>,…" or "<u>The speaker</u> mentions that…".
- 6. **TEXT AND TRANSLATION:** Now that you've worked your way through the first three exercises and have managed to pick up more of what has been said, you can feel free to move on to study the text and translation for the segment. This part is more *free-style*. Depending on your level of Spanish and level of comfort with the text, you can approach this in several ways. For instance, you can cover the Spanish side and first read the translation; then try to translate the English back into Spanish based on what you remember. Also, you can simply try to brainstorm some possible Spanish equivalents for the words or phrases in the English translation; then check the Spanish side and see how it was actually said. Conversely, you can cover the English side first and relisten while you read along with the Spanish, perhaps pausing the audio to repeat each line aloud. In any case, the side-by-side arrangement of the Spanish text and its English translation allows you to cover one side and test yourself in various ways. You should be able to match up most words and phrases with their equivalents in English. You may want to highlight useful and interesting vocabulary and phrases you want to learn.
- 7. **VOCABULARY:** Following the text and translation are two more exercises, which can be done while looking back at the text when needed. The "Vocabulary" exercise presents English translations for at least ten Spanish key words and phrases found in the segment. You can replay the audio while listening for the Spanish equivalents, and if needed, look back at the text. Each vocabulary item is followed by a reference to the line number where the Spanish word or phrase appears.
- 8. **TRANSLATE:** The "Translate" exercise requires two steps. First, you must circle the correct word(s) to complete each sentence. The purpose is to draw your attention to collocations and idioms and develop the very important skill of noticing *how* words are used together in sentences. The answer key shows the line number of the text where the structure in question can be found. The focus is on the little words—prepositions and pronouns, as well as verb forms such as the subjunctive. The second step is to translate the sentences into English. You will find suggested English translations in the answer key. Keep in mind that there is always more than one way to translate a sentence.
- 9. **LISTEN AGAIN:** Try listening to the segments you have already studied again later. You will find that you can understand more and with more ease the following day. (Studies have shown that material learned is consolidated and organized in the brain during sleep.)

#### The Texts and Translations

#### Lines

The text and translation for each segment have been divided into numbered "lines," which are not necessarily complete sentences or even clauses but are manageable chunks that can be studied.

#### **Fillers**

Fillers, which are used to signal that the speaker is thinking of what to say next, are a common and natural part of spoken language. Fillers vary from speaker and region. The most common and universal, are eh... and em.... Other popular fillers include bueno, este..., pues, entonces. Keep your ears open for such words and how native speakers use them. Another trait of spoken discourse is that the speaker may misspeak, then back up to correct themself. Also, a speaker may decide to rephrase a sentence or simply not finish it. These are all marked with ellipses (...) so that you can easily see that the *word* you didn't catch is, in fact, not a complete word at all. These ellipses are meant to aid you in deciphering the listening. However, when you are reading for meaning, anything before an ellipsis can be ignored.

#### The Translations

Good style has been sacrificed in favor of direct translations so that Spanish words and phrases can easily be matched up to their translations. You are encouraged to think of alternative ways lines could be translated into English.

## **Presentaciones**

#### Laura

Laura (Costa Rica) 430 words (141 wpm)



#### **True or False**

1.	Laura is 26 years old.	ıШ	rЦ
2.	Her husband is a web developer.	Т	F□
3.	She works with an American Company.	Т	F□
4.	She studied drama in college.	Т	F□
5.	She only takes care of dogs (and not other animals).	ТП	$F \square$

#### **Expressions**

a lot of a veces básicamente actually bueno also como always demasiado basically en realidad because entonces but hasta even la mayoría de las veces I'm from like luego muchas gracias lots of muchos most of the time obviamente obviously once pero so (much), too (much) porque siempre so, therefore sometimes soy de también thanks a lot tienen que ir then un montón de they have to go una vez well

#### **Multiple Choice**

1. Laura has

		two daughters two sons and one daughter

- 2. Laura and her husband have been married for \_\_\_ years.
  - a. two b. eight c. twelve d. fifteen

- 3. Which of the following is true about Laura?
  - a. She has a pet turtle.
- c. She likes reading.
- b. She is a web designer.
- d. Her husband is Canadian.

#### Text

¡Hola! ¿Cómo están?	1	Hi! How are you?
Mi nombre es Laura.	2	My name is Laura.
Tengo treinta y seis años.	3	I am 36 years old.
Y yo soy de Costa Rica.	4	And I am from Costa Rica.
Vivo en San José, Costa Rica con mis hijos y mi esposo.	5	I live in San José, Costa Rica, with my kids and my husband.
Tengo dos chicos: Tomás, que tiene once, y Oscar, que tiene nueve.	6	I have two boys: Tomas, who is eleven years old, and Oscar, nine years old.
Y bueno, obviamente son la vida entera mía.	7	And well, obviously, they are my whole life.
Son mi amor; los amo con todo mi corazón.	8	They are my love; I love them with all my heart.
Son unos niños súper lindos, súper buenos.	9	They are really cute boys, really good boys.
Van a la escuela y siempre están con buenas notas.	10	They go to school and get really good grades.
Y no lo digo porque yo soy la mamá. ¡Son buenos chicos!	11	And I am not saying all this because I am their mom. They [really] are good kids!
Y mi esposo, que se llama Chalo	12	And my husband, whose name is Chalo
—bueno, en realidad se llama Gonzalo, pero le dicen Chalo—	13	—well, actually, his name is Gonzalo, but everybody calls him Chalo—
él es diseñador web y también se dedica a la fotografía.	14	he is a web developer and also a photographer.
Y con él tenemos doce años de estar casados.	15	And we have been married for 12 years.
Bueno, y a mí, ¿de mí qué puedo contar?	16	And what can I tell you about myself?
Que me encantan un montón de cosas,	17	I love to do a lot of things,
pero bueno, mi trabajo es: hago traducciones.	18	but my job: I am a translator.
Trabajo con una compañía canadiense.	19	I work with a Canadian company.
Entonces, traduzco todo el contenido que siempre andan produciendo del francés al español, y a veces de inglés al español.	20	So, my job is to translate all their content from French to Spanish, and sometimes from English to Spanish.
Entonces, a eso casi siempre me dedico las primeras horas de la mañana.	21	So, that is what I'm usually doing early in the morning.
Luego también soy actriz de teatro,	22	And I am also a theater actress,
entonces ahí andamos siempre como locos ensayando, que la producción, que la presentación, que	23	so we are always running around like crazy rehearsing, producing, presenting,
Bueno, es demasiado divertido y me fascina.	24	Anyway, it is so much fun, and I love it.
Eso fue lo que estudié en la universidad: drama.	25	That is actually what I studied in college: drama.
Entonces, bueno, eso es mi, mi, lo que amo en el corazón hacer.	26	So, well, that is me, what I really love to do in my heart.

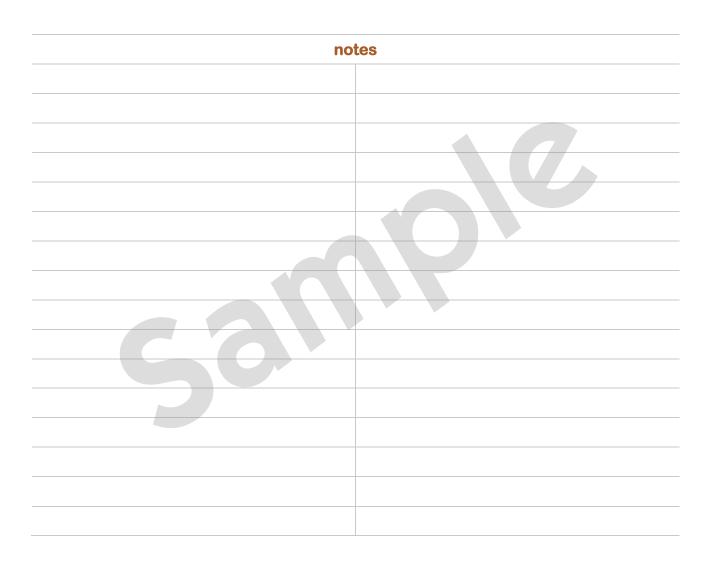
Luego también me encanta, bueno, me encantan hacer un montón de cosas.	27	Then, also, there are a lot of things I love, well, love to do.
Me gusta cocinar, inventar cosas nuevas y revolver cosas.	28	I love to cook—invent new things and mix up things.
Y mis hijos y mi esposo son los que tienen que andar probando lo que yo hago,	29	My husband and kids are the ones that have to try my recipes,
pero la mayoría de las veces sale bien, ¡espero!	30	but most of the time, they turn out okay, I hope!
Bueno, ¡eso es lo que dicen!	31	Or at least that what they say!
Me gusta leer—ando viendo que leo.	32	I love to read. I am always searching for something to read.
Me encanta ver series de televisión, muchas.	33	I also enjoy watching TV series, lots of them.
Me encanta el ciclismo.	34	I love cycling.
Y cada vez que puedo, así como los fines de semana sobre todo, lo primero que hago es abrir los ojos y agarrar la bicicleta y me voy.	35	Every time I can, like on weekends especially, the first thing I do is open my eyes, grab my bike and go somewhere.
Y ese es así, como el tiempo para mí, mi tiempo de relajarme, ¡entonces me gusta!	36	That is like "my time," time for me, my time to relax; I love it!
También me encantan los animales.	37	I also love animals.
Tengo una pequeña guardería de perritos.	38	I have a small pet sitting company.
Cuido perritos cuando los dueños se van de vacaciones,	39	I take care of doggies when their owners are away on vacation,
o se tienen que ir por algún motivo o no los pueden cuidar durante el día,	40	or they go away for some reason, or they can't take care of them during the day,
entonces me los dejan a mí y yo cuido perritos!	41	so they leave them with me. So I am a doggie sitter!
O los camino también, los saco a caminar	42	I also walk them, take them out for walks.
Y gatos y bueno de todo me han dejado, ¡hasta una vez una tortuga!	43	And I've also taken care of cats, and well anything, even a turtle once!
Y bueno, ¡básicamente eso es!	44	That's it, basically!
¡Esa soy yo y muchas gracias por escucharme!	45	That's me! And thanks a lot for listening to me!

#### Vocabulary

2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	kids <sup>5</sup> whole <sup>7</sup> love <sup>8</sup> cute <sup>9</sup> grade <sup>10</sup> to be married <sup>15</sup> to tell <sup>16</sup> job <sup>18</sup>	10. crazy <sup>23</sup> 11. husband <sup>29</sup> 12. to grab <sup>35</sup> 13. time <sup>36</sup> 14. owner <sup>39</sup> 15. to take care of <sup>40</sup> 16. turtle <sup>43</sup> 17. to listen <sup>45</sup>	
	morning <sup>21</sup>	17. to listen <sup>43</sup>	

#### **Translate**

- 1. Ellos van *a / en* la escuela.
- 2. Chalo se *dedica / dedicata* a la fotografía.
- 3. Tienen doce años *de estar / estado* casados.
- 4. Laura es actriz / actora de teatro.
- 5. Yo estudié / estudió drama en la escuela.
- 6. Me gusta leer / leyendo.



True or False: 1. F<sup>3</sup> 2. T<sup>14</sup> 3. F<sup>19</sup> 4. T<sup>25</sup> 5. F<sup>48</sup> Expressions: a veces - sometimes / básicamente - basically / bueno - well / como - like / demasiado - so (much), too (much) / en realidad - actually / entonces - so, therefore / hasta - even /la mayoría de las veces - most of the time / luego - then / muchas gracias - thanks a lot / muchos - lots of / obviamente - obviously / pero - but / porque - because / siempre - always / soy de - l'm from / también - also / tienen que ir - they have to go / un montón de - a lot of / una vez - once Multiple Choice: 1. b<sup>6</sup> 2. c<sup>15</sup> 3 . c<sup>32</sup> Vocabulary: 1. hijos 2. entero 3. amor 4. lindo 5. nota 6. estar casado 7. contar 8. trabajo 9. mañana 10. loco 11. esposo 12. agarrar 13. tiempo 14. dueño 15. cuidar 16. tortuga 17. escuchar Translate: 1. a<sup>10</sup> They go to school. 2. dedica<sup>14</sup> Chalo is dedicated to photography. 3. de estar<sup>15</sup> They have been married for twelve years. 4. actriz<sup>22</sup> Laura is a theater actress. 5. estudié<sup>25</sup> I studied drama at school. 6. leer<sup>32</sup> I like reading.

#### La Rutina Diaria de José

José (Honduras) 407 words (154 wpm)

#### **@10**

#### **True or False**

José's wife gets up a little earlier than him in order to get the children ready.
 Jose's wife takes the children to school because she works in the school they attend.
 José works until 6:30 p.m.
 In the afternoon José has to take his children to the gym.
 All of Jose's children sleep in the same room.

T□ F□
T□ F□

#### **Expressions**

a la misma hora
a través de
al menos
como les decía
hasta
o sea que
por lo tanto
temprano
un poco

a bit
as I said
at least
at the same time
early
so-then
through
until
which means

#### **Multiple Choice**

- 1. Which of the following is true?
  - a. He has lunch at work.
  - b. He has lunch at home after work.
  - c. He comes home for lunch then goes back to work.
  - d. He often skips lunch because he's too busy.
- 2. What does José like to do in the afternoon?
  - a. watch televisionb. go for a jogc. work on his motorcycled. read the newspaper
- 3. Before José's children go to bed, José \_\_\_.
  - a. tells them a bedtime story
  - b. lets them watch a cartoon on YouTube
- c. reads the Bible with them
- d. teaches them some English words

#### Text

Mi rutina diaria.	1	My daily routine.
Pues, me levanto temprano a las cinco de la mañana.	2	Well, I get up early at five in the morning.
A esa hora tengo que levantar a los niños para ayudarles a bañarse, a vestirse, para ir a la escuela.	3	That's when I have to get the children up and help them take their baths and get dressed to go to school.

#### La Violencia Doméstica

#### True or False

1.	Gender-based violence is a much bigger problem in underdeveloped countries than in developed countries.	Т□	F□
2.	According to Francisco, social problems tend to decrease as a country	ТП	F□
	develops.		
3.	He implies that domestic violence is most often committed by men against	ТП	F□
	women.		
4.	People tend to start to manifest signs of being abusive in childhood or	Т 🗆	F 🗆
	adolescence.		
5.	Francisco admits to being a victim of domestic violence himself.	Т 🗆	F□

#### **Expressions**

asuntos privados
dentro de
desde
frecuente
nada más lejos de la realidad
no son conscientes
siempre ha sido así
tampoco
una vez
violencia de género

(starting) from common either gender-based violence it's always been this way nothing is further from reality once private affairs they're not aware within

#### **Multiple Choice**

- 1. Francisco mentions that victims may not realize they are being abused \_\_\_.
  - a. because they think it's normal and culturally acceptable behavior in society.
  - b. when it is verbal and emotional abuse, and not physical abuse
  - c. if they themselves are also abusers
  - d. none of the above
- 2. Francisco mentions that victims may not report the abuse because \_\_\_.
  - a. their neighbors will gossip
- c. the police will do nothing to help
- b. they are afraid or ashamed
- d. all of the above
- 3. Which of the following statements would Francisco agree with?
  - a. People should not meddle in their neighbors' personal affairs even if they suspect domestic abuse.
  - b. Many women falsely accuse their husbands of domestic violence when they are bored or unhappy with their marriage.
  - c. We should not tolerate domestic violence and should teach our children to do the same.
  - d. We should respect that what is considered domestic violence in one culture may be completely normal in another culture.

#### Text

La violencia de género es uno de los grandes problemas sociales a nivel mundial.	1	Gender-based violence is one of the greatest social problems in the world.
Afecta a muchísima gente.	2	It affects a great many people.
Una vez superados en los países desarrollados los grandes peligros de conflicto, como guerras o incluso terrorismo,	3	Once the great dangers of conflict, such as war or terrorism, [have been] overcome in developed countries,
y rebajados los problemas de violencia en las calles,	4	and the problems of street violence [has been] reduced,
porque cuando las sociedades adquieren prosperidad, pues, bajan los problemas sociales.	5	because when societies achieve prosperity, then social problems decrease.
Generalmente, en la sociedad actual nos enfrentamos a un tema del que no se habla mucho,	6	Generally, in today's society, we face a topic that is not talked about much,
pero que es más frecuente de lo que se suele pensar,	7	but that is more common than is often thought,
y ocurre en todos los ámbitos sociales.	8	and it occurs in all social spheres.
La violencia dentro de los hogares, que es nuestra zona más íntima, es una lacra en el mundo entero moderno,	9	Domestic violence, which is our most intimate area, is a scourge in the entire modern world,
porque hay muchas personas, generalmente mujeres, que son maltratadas dentro de su propia familia	10	because there are many people, usually women, that are abused within their own families,
(pues por sus maridos, generalmente), que lo sufren,	11	(usually by their husbands), who suffer.
Pero, o bien no son realmente conscientes de que están siendo maltratadas,	12	But, either they are not really aware that they are being abused,
pues por temas culturales, porque siempre ha sido así,	13	due to cultural issues, because it's always been this way,
y se entiende que eso va a ser así;	14	and it is understood that it will continue being this way;
que hay un género dominante, que es el masculino, y otro género que debe aguantar, que es el femenino,	15	that there is a dominant sex, the male, and another sex that has to put up with it, the female,
o bien por miedo, o por vergüenza, no se atreven a denunciar a las autoridades estos casos de violencia.	16	or [it's] out of fear or shame, they do not dare to report these cases to the authorities of violence.
Se dan incluso casos en los que el vecindario sabe de estos maltratos,	17	There are even cases where neighbors know about the abuse,
pero tampoco lo denuncian, supongo que por esta máxima de:	18	but they don't report them either, I suppose because of the maxim of
"no meterse en los asuntos privados del vecino, que no nos afectan a nosotros".	19	not meddling in our neighbor's private affairs, which do not affect us.
Y nada más lejos de la realidad:	20	But nothing is further from reality:
La violencia dentro de los hogares nos afecta a todos.	21	Violence within households affects us all.

Es una obligación de todos como ciudadanos enseñar a nuestros hijos a ser intolerantes con este tipo de comportamiento,	22	It is an obligation of all citizens to teach our children to be intolerant of such behavior,
desde la infancia y sobre todo en la adolescencia, que es donde este tipo de abusos empiezan a manifestarse.	23	starting in childhood and particularly during adolescence, which is when this type of abuse begins to manifest itself.
A ver si así, entre todos, evitamos estos comportamientos y conseguimos una sociedad mejor.	24	Let's see if, together, we can avoid this kind of behavior and make a better society.

#### Vocabulary

1.	danger³	8. aware <sup>12</sup>	
2.	to reduce <sup>4</sup>	9. to put up with <sup>15</sup>	
3.	to achieve <sup>5</sup>	10. fear <sup>16</sup>	
4.	to face <sup>6</sup>	11. shame <sup>16</sup>	
5.	home <sup>9</sup>	12. to dare <sup>16</sup>	
6.	scourge <sup>9</sup>	13. neighbors <sup>17</sup>	
7.	abused <sup>10</sup>	14. to meddle in <sup>19</sup>	

#### **Translate**

- 1. La violencia de género es uno de los / una de las grandes problemas a nivel mundial.
- 2. Afecta *a* / muchísima gente.
- 3. Hay muchas personas, generalmente mujeres, que son maltratadas dentro de / a su propia familia.
- 4. Las mujeres no se atreven / atrevan a denunciar a las autoridades estos casos de violencia.
- 5. Se dan incluso casos en los que el vecindario sabe *de* / estos maltratos.
- 6. A / De ver si conseguimos una sociedad mejor.

notes	

True or False: 1. F<sup>1,9</sup> 2. T<sup>10-11</sup> 3. T<sup>5</sup> 4. T<sup>23</sup> 5. F Expressions: asuntos privados - private affairs / dentro de - within / desde - (starting) from / frecuente - common / nada más lejos de la realidad - nothing is further from reality / no son conscientes - they're not aware / siempre ha sido así - it's always been this way / tampoco - either / una vez - once / violencia de género - gender-based violence Multiple Choice: 1. a<sup>12-14</sup> 2. b<sup>16</sup> 3. c<sup>22-24</sup> Vocabulary: 1. peligro 2. rebajar 3. adquirir 4. enfrentar 5. hogar 6. lacra 7. maltratado 8. consciente 9. aguantar 10. miedo 11. vergüenza 12. atreverse 13. vecindario 14. meterse en Translate: 1. uno de los¹ Gender-based violence is one of top worldwide problems. 2. a² It affects a great many people. 3. de¹0 There are many people, usually women, who are abused within their own families. 4. atreven¹6 Women do not dare to denounce the authorities in these cases of violence. 5. de¹7 There are even cases in which the neighborhood knows of these abuses. 6. a²⁴ Let's see if we [can] make a better society.