

Dialogue Workout - # 75

1.
A: How long have you been living in San Francisco?
B: For only six months. I like it. It's a nice city.
A: It's a lot colder and wetter than your country, isn't it?
B: I don't mind living in a colder climate.
A: There's a lot of traffic on the freeways and streets.
B: Yes, but, if you avoid driving downtown, the traffic doesn't bother you.
2.
A: Were any relatives of yours living here when you arrived?
B: Yes, my brother had been living here for about six years.
A: Was he able to show you around a little?
B: Yes, he helped me a lot because I had never shopped in an American supermarket before.
A: Had you ever eaten American food before coming here?
B: No, I hadn't. Since coming here, I've had a couple of hamburgers, but they're nothing to write home about.
3.
A: What are you planning do over the next six months?
B: Of course, I would like to learn more English.
A: Do you plan to take some courses at City College?
B: Yes, now that I'm settled and have an afternoon job, I'd like to take some courses in the morning.
A: Houses are very expensive here. Are you thinking of buying a house eventually?
B: That's way in the future. I have to be able to make a living first.
4.
A: Where were you living before you came to the US?
B: I lived in El Salvador for most of my life.
A: What do you remember most about El Salvador?
B: I remember the beautiful beaches, the green tropical trees, and the delicious food.
A: Do you have any plans to visit your country soon?
B: Yes, as a matter of fact, I'm thinking of going there in August, before Fall Semester.
5.
A: How did you spend your first day in San Francisco?
B: We got in my brother's car and took a tour of the city.
5. (continued)
A: Did you see Golden Gate Park and Civic Center?
B: Yes, we did. Then, we went for a drive over the bridge and visited Sausalito.
A: Did you have any trouble finding your way around?
B: Not really. My brother is very familiar with the Bay Area, and he showed me everything.
6.
A: Do you miss your family in Mexico?
B: Yes, I do. I haven't seen them in about two years.
A: Do you talk with them on the phone?
B: Yes. I've been calling them about once a week since I got here.
A: What kind of work does your father do?
B: He drives a tractor. He's been driving tractors since he was 25 years old.
7.
A: Tell me about your life in San Francisco.
B: I like my current job better than the one I had before.
A: What kind of job did you have when you first came to this country?
B: I worked as a cook's helper. I had to get up at 4:00 am every day.
A: Since you left that job, what have you been doing?
B: I've been working as a mechanic for a good service station.
8.
A: What impressed you your first day here?
B: I was amazed to see the large buildings. I had never seen such large buildings before.
A: Yes, the buildings are large. Especially downtown.
B: I was frightened of the freeway. I had never seen a freeway before.
A: That's right. The cars go very fast on it.
B: I was confused to see people without homes. I had never seen so many homeless people before.
9.
A: What country is Sylvia from?
B: Nicaragua. She's been here for one year.
A: Does she have a job or is she looking?
B: She has a job as a housekeeper. She's had that job for about four months.
A: What does she do when she finishes work?
B: She eats dinner quickly then goes to school. She's on a very tight schedule.

Dialogue Workout - # 76

1.

A: What does Sylvia want to do?

B: She's interested in getting a better job, but she needs to learn more English.

A: What kind of work is she interested in?

B: She's tired of being a housekeeper. She would like to be a secretary.

A: She'll need to take word processing. Mission Campus has a good clerical training program.

B: Yes. She hopes to enroll in a computer class.

2.

A: Maria has had a difficult time since she moved here.

B: Why has her life been so difficult?

A: She has three children. She brought them with her when she came here.

B: What about her husband? Did he come too?

A: Maria is a widow. She has been raising the children herself.

B: That's hard. She has had to support herself and her three children, and take care of them.

3.

A: I don't know how we were able to manage, but everything turned out okay.

B: You must have worked very hard to support your children.

A: Yes, I did. But that's water under the bridge

B: Are your children all grown up now?

A: Yes, they are. Two of them are married with children of their own..

B: That's wonderful. How long have you been a grandmother?

A: Six years. My oldest grandchild is six.

4.

A: It's difficult to move to another country.

B: What, in your opinion, is the most difficult thing?

A: By far, the hardest thing is the language.

B: You're right. I feel the same way. It's a real stumbling block.

A: If you don't speak English, people sometimes take advantage of you.

B: After I studied English a while, things got much better for me.

5.

A: My first job wasn't bad. It could've been a lot worse. I was a baby sitter.

5. (continued)

B: Did you work full time or part time?

A: I was a full time baby sitter. I had a lot responsibilities.

B: Tell me about your employer. Was she nice?

A: She was very nice. She helped me a lot. She gave me a lot of advice.

B: I'm glad your first job was a good experience.

6.

A: I have a good friend at the restaurant, Erik. He's been very supportive.

B: It helps to have a good friend at work.

A: He explains how to make special foods.

B: How long have you known Erik?

A: I've known him for three years. We like to talk.

B: I ate at your restaurant last week. It was great.

7.

A: I try to put my paycheck in my savings account.

B: That's a good idea. If you can save money, you have more options.

A: But, I always have a lot of bills to pay, and it isn't always possible to save.

B: I try to save at least ten percent of my paycheck every month.

A: I've only been in this country for one year.

B: After you work for a while, you'll be able to save to save more.

8.

A: Has it been a long time since you left Nicaragua?

B: No, I haven't been in this country too long. Only a couple of years.

A: Tell me how you felt when you started living here.

B: I was sad for the first three months because I had never been away from my country before.

A: But you probably adjusted to your new country quickly.

B: Yes, but I've always missed my family and friends.

9.

A: How do you like San Francisco?

B: I'm beginning to enjoy being here. It's a nice place.

A: Really? Don't you think it's gets too cold in winter?

B: I don't complain about the weather as much as I used to.

A: What about public transportation?

B: The bus system isn't bad. It's convenient sometimes. And sometimes it's not.

Dialogue Workout - # 77

1.

A: Why did you come to The United States?

B: I came here in order to get a good education.

A: What classes are you taking at Mission Campus?

B: I'm in the G.E.D. program and I've almost completed it. I'll be taking the test next Friday.

A: I'm also interested in the G.E.D. program. I haven't enrolled in it yet, but I want to.

B: They prepare you for the examination. If you pass it, you receive a high school diploma.

2.

A: What would you like to do when you finish G.E.D.?

B: I want to enroll in City College for two years and get an AA degree.

A: Will you be continuing your education beyond the AA?

B: Yes. I'm hoping to attend UC Berkeley for my Junior and Senior years.

A: Will you eventually return to your country or will you make this your home?

B: That depends on a lot of factors. I really haven't decided yet.

3.(From a story by Jean Chen, Level 7/8)

A: If you visit Yellow Mountain, you won't be interested in visiting another mountain.

B: In China, that's what you often hear people say.

A: It is the most beautiful mountain in China. My husband and I went there when we retired.

B: Why are the pine trees called "iron pines?"

A: The roots grow deeply into the rocks. Therefore, the trees can withstand strong winds.

B: What was the hardest part of your journey?

A: Climbing 700 stairs to reach the top. When we got there, I felt ecstatic.

4. (from a story by Chun Chiu, Level 3)

A: China means "Middle Country" in Chinese. Why is it called this name?

B: Because the Chinese thought their country was the only one that had four seasons.

A: That's right. They thought that the East was the season of spring only.

B: And the West was the season of autumn. The North was winter, and the South was summer.

A: Only China had all four. So, China must be in the middle.

5. (from a story by Houshang Sakhaei, Level 5-8)

A: My home town is the capital of Iran which is Tehran.

B: Iran is a country very rich in natural resources, yet many of its people are poor. Why is that?

A: In its history, Iran has been attacked by its neighbors many times.

B: Also, Iran has suffered under several dictatorships.

A: The most recent dictator was the Shah.

Unfortunately, he was supported by the U.S. and by oil companies.

B: You can understand why Iranians were angry at the U.S. and the C.I.A.

6.(from a story by Youhua Guo, Level 7/8)

A: During the Cultural Revolution, I was forced to labor in the countryside.

B: That was very difficult for you. You had two sons, aged four and two years old.

A: I was allowed to visit them only once a month. Of course, I was worried about them.

B: After that, you moved to Hong Kong. You waited three and a half years for a visa from the U.S.

A: Yes. Living in the U.S. wasn't easy at first. My husband didn't get as good a job as he wanted.

B: Now, your two sons are grown up. They're both computer scientists, and they're doing very well.

A: Even though I am getting older, my life is much happier now.

7. (from a story by Carmen Seza, ESL 4)

A: When I became a grandmother, it was the best day of my life.

B: Your grandson was the biggest baby in the nursery.

A: While he was growing up, he did something new every day that amazed us.

B: He is very amazing. At three years old, he is very intelligent, and he speaks clearly.

A: When I take him to the park to play, I feel like a young girl again.

B: He's a big, handsome boy with lots of charisma.

8. (From a story by Kenny Liu, Level 7/8)

A: Chinese people aren't used to eating hamburgers.

B: They don't like to freeze meat, do they?

A: They don't think frozen meat can be cooked into delicious food.

B: Besides, they can go to the market and buy fresh meat all the time.