

LESSON 10

Visita al médico para solicitar incapacidad

Visit to the Doctor for Disability Purposes

Note: This text reflects the peculiar speech of the patient, with pronunciation changes, omissions, etc.

- ¡ Bueno' día', dotol ! (*)
- Good morning Sir! You are Mr....Alvarez, right?
- Sí, Francico Alvarez de la Concepción...
- Alright, and you are here...
- Bueno, a mí me mandó el médico de la aseguradora pa' que me den el disability... (1)
- Sure. Let's go step by step here...so you are requesting disability?
- Claro, dotol. Me hace farta el disability porque no puedo trabajal má'...
- Let me ask you a few questions, please. What's your age, health problems...
- Tengo 37 año', dotol y padejco de la bomba, vaya, del corazón... (2)
- When were you first diagnosed as having heart problems?
- Cuando 'taba en Cuba...hace como 8 año'...
- And you came to the US directly from Cuba?
- No dotol. Yo m' ecapé de Cuba y fui a paral primero a Haití y dipué' a Santo Domingo... allí viví uno' cuanto' año'... (3)
- And how long ago was that?
- De Cuba a Santo Domingo 5 año', de allí pa' cá hace uno' mese' na'ma'
- How did you make it to the Dominican Republic?
- Oh sí, eso fue fácil: fui remando hasta Haití...

- Did you row by yourself or there were more people with you?
- No, sí, había do' ma', pero uno llegó muelto y namá no' salvamo' do' (4)
- And to make it here to the US?
- Pue' fui remando por el Canal de la Mona a Puelto Rico... De allí me colé en un avión pa' Niu Yol ... y aquí e'toy... (5)
- Okay. Ahh, let me listen to your chest...Breathe normally...Exhale through your mouth...Now take a deep breath...hold it... okay...Breathe normally again... All right...
- Bueno dotol, qué... ¿me va a dar el disability?
- Well, Mr. Alvarez, let me be honest with you: I don't think so. You are very fit, have muscles like a body builder and obviously can row quite well... You don't have any heart problem... You'd better go back to work...Here is a note for your boss. The interpreter will show you the way out... (6)
- Pero...¡coño! ¿Polqué no me da el condena disability? ¡No entiendo na! (7)

LECCION 11

Admitted at the hospital / Ingreso en el hospital {1}

- Good morning, madam! How can I help you?
- Ay, m'hijita, no espiqueamos el inglich. ¿Tienen un intérprete? {2}
- Interpreter? Of course. One moment, please...
- ¡Buenos días! Me llamo Susana Altavoz y trabajo aquí como intérprete. Todo lo que ustedes digan en español se lo voy a traducir al inglés y todo lo que la señorita diga en inglés se lo voy a traducir al español a ustedes. ¿Está bien?
- Ay, sí, claro, m'hijita. Que Dios la bendiga... Vinimos a ingresar en el hospital...
- Which of the two is to be admitted?
- Es mi marido el que va a ingresar. Lo que pasa es que él es muy callado... {3}
- Can I see the doctor's papers, please?
- Aquí están. Se los dieron la semana pasada para que viniera hoy a ingresar...
- Okay. Everything is fine. Please, have a seat and I will ask you a few questions...
- Gracias, gracias...
- Have you eaten anything since last night?
- No, m'hijita. Solamente tomó un poco de agua a las 8 de la noche. Desde esa hora, nada...
- Madam, with all due respect, do you think your husband may want to answer all questions himself?
- Es que él nunca habla. Siempre soy yo la que le tengo que hablar por él...
- Sir, please. I need your full name, social security number and your insurance card... Have you taken any medicine today?
- Hmm. . .Ahh. . .

- Is that a yes or a no?
- ¿Usted ve lo que le digo? El nada más que habla con gruñidos, quejidos. . . ¡a veces se. . .se embulla y dice mi . . . mi nombre! {4}
- It's all right. Can you please move your head downward if it is a Yes and right and left if the answer is No? Thank you!
- Okay. Let's put this plastic bracelet on with your information. An employee will come with a wheelchair to take you to your room in pre-op...
- Pero, él puede caminar...eso le puede traer mala suerte...a lo mejor pasa algo malo en el salón de operaciones...se puede quedar para. . . parálitico... {5}
- Oh, no! Not at all! His is a minor, outpatient surgery. They are only going to remove that mole to biopsy it. Even if it came back positive for cancer, they would not do any major surgery today...Don't be afraid, madam. It is hospital policy...Interpreter, could you please explain to them that the moment they set foot inside the hospital, we are liable and responsible for their well-being? Please? {6}

LECCION 12

At the gynecologist's (GYN)

En la consulta del ginecólogo

- Good morning, Ms. Ramírez. How are you today?
- Ay, señorita, perdone, pero no sé nada de inglés. . . ¿podría usar a mi hermanita menor como intérprete? (1)
- Oh, Mrs. Ramírez, I am afraid that is not possible because. . .
- ¡Pero si ella habla el inglés perfectamente! En solo dos años aquí, entre las amiguitas y la tele, habla inglés como una gringuita. . . (2)
- I understand, Mrs. Ramírez, but it is hospital policy not to allow children or close relatives to serve as interpreters for patients. Sorry. We have a few very capable interpreters. Let me call their office. . .
- En ese caso, señorita, por favor, ¿podría ser una intérprete y no un hombre? Es que me da mucha pena. . . es mi primera consulta con un especialista de mujeres. . . (3)
- Well, let's see what they can do. This is a very busy hospital and there are not too many interpreters. I will ask their supervisor and see if it is possible. . .
- I am sorry Mrs. Ramírez, but they only have one male interpreter available now. . . This is Mr. González, and he is going to interpret for you and the doctor.
- ¡Oh no! Un hombre sí que no. . . va a estar mirando todo. . . no, no. . .
- No, Mrs. Ramírez, please, calm down. Let me show you the office where the doctor will see you. . . See? You will be lying down on this exam table, with only the doctor and the nurse here with you. . . then there is this thick curtain. . . the interpreter will be on the other side of the curtain, and he will only be able to hear what the doctor and you say and interpret. . . he is a professional medical

interpreter, so you can rest assured there will be no invasion of privacy (4)

Now please, put on this robe and relax.

- Ay, Dios mío, qué pena. . . no debí haber salido en estado. . . (5)

o haberme dejado esta barriga. . . ahora todo es más difícil. . . (6)

- Come on, now, Mrs. Ramírez, don't say that. . . there are so many women that would feel blessed by being pregnant and having the possibility of becoming mothers. . . does the baby's father know about this?

- Sí, yo le. . . se lo dije hace como dos meses, cuando tuve la primera falta, pero (7) no le. . . no le dio importancia. Ahora no sé qué vamos a hacer. . . él vive con sus padres y yo con los míos. . .

- Do your parents know about your pregnancy? Perhaps they could help you. . .

- No, no les he dicho nada todavía. Solamente mi hermanita sabe. . .

- Okay, here is the doctor now. Please lay back on this table and open your legs. . . like that. . . Relax, please. Interpreter, can you hear us well?

- Yes, I can. Please proceed. I am facing the door, with my back to the curtain. I am going to tell the lady now in Spanish.

- Sra. Ramírez, estoy de espaldas a la cortina y de frente a la puerta. . .

- Okay Mrs. Ramírez, put your feet on these stirrups, like that. Now the doctor is going to look inside your vagina. He will use these specula, which look like (8) spoons. It might feel a little cold at first, but there will be no pain. . . like that. . .

- Ay, se siente una muy extraña, eso es frío. . . ¿Hay algo que ande mal ahí, doctor?

- No, madam. Everything looks normal and healthy. When did you say you noticed your amenorrhea?

- ¿La qué doctor? No entiendo lo que dice el intérprete. . .

- Amenorrhea, madam. It means the absence of menstruation, that is, when you noticed you were not having a period for the first time. . .

- Bueno, sí, ya entiendo. Fue hace dos meses, o dos meses y medio, como el 15 de marzo. . .
- Well, it seems that you'd become gravid almost three months ago. . . (9)
- ¿Que quedé qué, doctor? Es que el intérprete usa unas palabras muy educadas, lo siento, pero no entiendo bien lo que dice. . .
- Don't worry, madam. He is just translating exactly what I am saying. Gravid means pregnant, with child, in the family way, you know, "bun in the oven"
- Ah sí, ya entiendo. Ay, mi madre, eso fue para el Día de las Enamoradas, Enamorados. . . cuando hicimos el amor por primera vez. . . (10)
- You mean February 14?
- Sí, ese mismo día. Francisco me trajo flores y un collar muy lindo y entonces. . .
- Well, that seems to be it. You are three months pregnant, Mrs. Ramírez, and it seems the baby is developing very well. Have you had morning sickness, nausea, loss of appetite or excessive craving for something lately? (11)
- Solamente hace unos dos meses, doctor, que me dieron vómitos y muchos deseos de comer huevos fritos, los que nunca como porque no me gustan. Ahora les cogí asco otra vez. . . no tengo mucho apetito, pero siento hambre. Cuando empiezo a comer, se me quita y entonces solo tomo juguitos y sopas. ¿Eso es normal, doctor?
- Yes, it is very normal, nothing to worry about. I will order these labs, an ultrasound and the nurse will give you a list with vitamins and minerals you should take on a daily basis. I would like to see you again in a month. Alright?
- Sí, doctor, gracias. Voy a hablar con Francisquito para que venga conmigo la próxima vez, pero con mis padres me da pena. . .
- Well, the nurse can help you with that. Karen, perhaps a counselor should help?
- Sure, doctor. I will see to it.
- See you in a month, Mrs. Ramírez. Good luck and try to get the vitamins and minerals the nurse will tell you about.
- Gracias, doctor. Muy amable. Gracias a usted, señorita, por su ayuda. ¡Y a usted también, intérprete, aunque no lo vea!