

Bernadette Murphy

TalkAbroad

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For my second TalkAbroad session, I spoke with a girl named Lucia. She is 25 and a criminal justice student at a university in the capital of Guatemala. She currently lives there with her husband. I chose her because I knew she was a college student and she is similar to me in age. I also chose her because the topic of this assignment was love and she had mentioned in her bio that she was married. I was interested to hear her perspective as a married woman as opposed to single students in class with me.

For this conversation, I tried to work more on being able to ask more questions in response. Her microphone started waving in and out about halfway through, and I really struggled to hear her and couldn't respond in the way that I would have liked. I asked a couple of my own questions toward the end, but still had trouble hearing her.

In terms of an improvement from the last time, I felt like I was overall more relaxed and was able to carry on conversationally better and reply more often. I felt more comfortable laughing and joking in this conversation.

In terms of the cultural aspect, we focused a lot on school, work, and love. For her university, they have almost 200,000 students. This is obviously an incredible cultural difference. She told me that students either go to classes only in the morning, only in the afternoon, or only at night. It was really interesting to hear the differences in something like this. I think it is easy to assume that everything is simply the way it is in the United States.

Overall, I really enjoyed this experience. Even with the microphone issues, this is still the most authentic experience we can be getting as students studying in the United States. The opportunity to speak with native speakers is invaluable, and I am glad we get the chance to do it!