

Conversation 1 - Ecotourism

Prepare (45 min)

- Schedule your conversation
 - Remember to schedule at least 36 hours in advance.
- Review
 - Review vocabulary relevant to conversation on ecoturismo.
 - Learn at least 10 new words about ecoturismo.

El canon

buscar

La cascada

Explorar una cueva

El desierto

Hacer senderismo

La montaña

Montar a caballo

La playa

Practicar triolesa

- Plan
 - Write a list of 5-7 questions you can ask your conversation partner about ecotourism and travel.
 - Avoid questions that elicit a simple one-word (yes/no) answer.
 - Think about how you would respond to each of the questions if they were asked to you (prepare for any vocabulary that you might not know).
 - Read through the Interact and Reflect portion of the sequence to help anticipate any other questions you might need to ask of your partner.

1. ¿Qué lugares de ecoturismo visitabas?
2. ¿Qué tipo de actividades hiciste allí?
3. ¿Cuál es tu actividad favorita allí y por qué?
4. ¿Fue allí solo o con la familia?
5. ¿Qué tiempo hizo en el lugar?
6. ¿Había una actividad que no podías hacer?
7. ¿Hay alguna actividad que no te guste?
8. ¿Qué tipo de comida comiste?
9. ¿Cómo te sentiste en el viaje?

- Practice

- Practice asking and answering your questions out loud. If available, find a partner from class and practice together.
- Consider
 - What are some places that you notice you are having trouble communicating? Are there any new words or structures that you can learn before your conversation?

I noticed that I have trouble structuring my sentences, and I have some difficulties remembering the differences between Preterite and Imperfect.

- What are some techniques to help navigate a conversation? What sort of phrases would be helpful?

I found that looking over the vocabulary helped me, and I also found knowing words such as cómo, qué, cuándo, donde, qué tal helped me know what question was being asked.

Interact (15 min)

Remember, you do not have to talk for the entire 15 minutes. It is a conversation!

- (2 minutes) Introduce yourself to your conversation partner and get to know some basic information about each other.
- (13 minutes) Talk about travel and ecoturismo.

Recount a time when you traveled to a unique place. Where did you visit? What was it like? What did you do? What was the environment like? Ask your partner about a memorable trip that they have taken. Find out about some of the different ecoturismo places in your partner's country/city and share about some of the different types of places that exist in the United States. What are the major ecoturismo destinations of interest? Ask and share about a ecoturismo place you might like to visit in the future (you may use your project information for this) What things do you want to do there? Compare and contrast your answers to these questions.

 - De niña yo iba a Filipinas con mi familia.
 - Las Filipinas tienen muchas islas y montañas, playas y volcanes
 - Cuando estaba ahí, hacía nadar en el mar y hacer snorkel.
 - Tenía miedo de hacer snorkel pero era divertida. Miraba muchos peces.
 - Las Filipinas más calor que Estados Unidos. No me gustaba mucho el calor y tenía que beber mucha agua.
 - El tipo de transporte allí es jeepney y coche. Jeepney es como un autobús

- Mi familia y yo visitábamos en un volcán. Se llama volcán Taal. Hacíamos senderismo por un volcán y sacábamos fotos. Taal era hermosa

- **Tips**

- Try to *think* in the language of your conversation. Your ability to think in English is much more complex right now and often, problems arise when you think of something to say in English that you are not able to say in the target language.
- If there are words or major ideas that you don't understand, please ask your partner to help explain/elaborate.
- Remember, the conversation will be recorded so you don't have to understand 100% of what your partner says during the conversation. You will have time later to look up specific words.
- If your conversation goes a bit off topic, *that is ok!* The important takeaway from this is that you are building the ability and confidence to interact in the language.
- When your partner answers a question, try to ask a related follow-up question instead of moving directly to another prepared question that might not be related.

Reflect (60 minutes)

- **Review**

- Download and listen to the audio recording of your conversation.

- **Write in English**

- Overall, how did your conversation go? Explain.

Our conversation was okay. My partner did have to repeat herself a few times, and there was a lot of pausing. I also struggled making new sentences out of the moment, and my partner had to help me a bit. I also felt like the conversation was a bit one-sided, and I should have asked my partner more questions. All in all, we were still able to understand each other in the end.

- About what percentage of your partners' speech did you understand?

I think I understood about fifty percent of what my partner said. I had to ask her to repeat herself a couple of times, but by the end of it I was able to understand what she was saying.

- What are three things that you would phrase or say differently after having listened to your conversation?

1. I said, "Luray es un Virginia Beach pero aquí para mi casa". I was trying to say that Luray was in Virginia Beach but it was far from my house. I should have said, "Luray está en Virginia Beach, pero está lejos de donde vivo"
 2. I said, "me gusta maestra para nina cuatro años, cinco anos, siete anos." I was trying to say I want to be a teacher for younger kids. I should have said, Quiero ser un maestro para niños pequeños
 3. I said, "El nina, tienes anos." I was trying to ask the age of her students. I should have said, "Cuantos anos tienen del estudiante?"
- List three interesting things you learned about your conversation partner based on their answers to your questions.
1.) She teaches english to students who are five, six, and seven years old
 - 2.) She lives in Potrerillo.
 - 3.) What you can do in Potrerillo is kayaking, hiking, and swimming.

Choose the most interesting part of your conversation during the discussion and transcribe (write in **Spanish**) **1.5 minutes** of the recording. This will involve listening to the audio a few times. Focus on an area in which your partner was speaking the majority of the time. Write down both what you and your partner said. Be sure to indicate where this portion of the conversation is by indicating the time elapsed at the beginning of your transcription (ie. [2:35] if the section begins 2 minutes and thirty-five seconds into the conversation).

[9:15]

Yenina: Mi ciudad es Potrerillo. Es culturismo. Potrerillo.

Me: Potrerillo. Qué tipo culturismo es Potrerillo.

Yenina: El Potrerillo puedes hacer kayak. Puedes hacer senderismo. Puedes nadar también.

Me: Ah si.

Yenina: Puedes ver un montana (shows picture)

Me: Mucho hermosa

Yenina: Es bonito. Si.

Me: Porterillo es..

Yenina: Porterillo es un lago con montaña.

- What sort of cultural inferences or comparisons can you make about your interaction with your partner? If there is insufficient evidence, what comparisons can you make between your families?

The only comparison that I could make is that where we live, the weather is both hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It also snows over there where she lives like how it does here.

- List three new words you learned from this conversation.

A word that I learned that means “far” is “Lejos.” I also learned another word that means beautiful which is “bonito.” My partner also reminded me what the word for “lake” is, and it’s “Lago.”

- Is there anything else about the language that you noticed?

I noticed that there are different words that mean the same things in spanish. This may be obvious, but I found it interesting how I would use the adjective “hermosa” and my partner would reply “ Si, bonito.” which both insinuate something is pretty or beautiful.

- What can you do to better prepare for your next conversation?

What I can do to do better is to spend more time preparing and looking over the vocabulary. I also think that I should practice having a conversation with my classmates before the next TalkAbroad. I feel that this would help with answering questions and asking questions.