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Ciclo III.
De los párrafos a los textos auténticos
From Paragraphs to Authentic Texts

Introduction

In the next pages, you will find a series of reading passages that will start from easy and short pieces to more complex texts which will require your full attention.

A LETTER TO PAUL

Dear Paul,

My hometown is a boring city. I don't like it here. There's rarely something to do. After school, I often go to the central square for some beer. I usually walk up and down the "Sinful Street" (The priests from the parish call it so because in the places you find there, you can dance and get drunk no matter your age.) There, I get together with some friends. In the evening, my friends always have something to talk about someone, such as the new pregnant teenager in town, or last Mrs. Good's affair. On Saturday, I prefer to stay home and watch TV... But there's no international TV, so I have to watch boring game shows and stupid soap operas from local channels. I hate weekends. The weather is very cold and there's only a cinema that shows old movies. I would like to have a DVD player and lots of movies to see. On Sunday, I sleep until noon and after I get up, I clean my house. Weekends are really terrible for me.

I want to visit you for my next vacation so you can show me around the city and introduce me to some nice girls.

Your friend,

John.

Task I. Are the following statements **(T)**rue or **(F)**alse?

1. (__) John would like to go to the movies every weekend but he doesn't.

2. (__) He frequently drinks beer with his friends.

3. (__) His friends discuss other people's lives

4. (__) He watches international TV all day.

5. (__) He cleans his house on weekends.

My Neighbor's Party

Juan Carlos, the guy from apartment 305, is going to have a big party next week. A lot of his friends are going to come, but some friends cannot. For example, Alice is going to be in Europe and everyone is going to miss her because she is a very talkative person. She knows how to speak German, Italian, French, Spanish, and, of course, English! Her husband is not very good at languages. He can only speak Spanish, so Alice is going to translate everything for him while they are in Europe.

Juan Carlos' cousin, Alfred, is coming to the party and they all are going to have a good time because he is an expert barman. He knows how to prepare more than one thousand cocktails and especial drinks. Juan Carlos' wife is going to prepare all the food. She is excellent at cooking. Juan Carlos is

going to be the DJ because he does not want anyone to touch his $3.000 stereo. In the last party, someone who did not know how to use it, inserted Juan Carlos favorite DAT (Digital Audio Tape) with recently edited remixes and pressed the wrong button, and they got erased. Everyone is going to bring music in MP3 files in their USB flash drives. Charles is going to bring his guitar. He can play very well and Clara is very good at singing, so she is going to bring her wireless microphone and they all are going to use the karaoke (with Juan Carlos' supervision, of course!)

Juan Carlos' wife is going to ask her mother to take care of the children because they cannot sleep well with all the noise, and it is inconvenient for them to be there. Now they have to leave because they have to do the shopping for the party. They are planning to buy some lamb, beef, meat pads for hamburgers, and sausages. They do not want to fry pork cracklings, they have a lot of fat and it sticks to the walls. They also need some snacks. They are not sure about how many bottles of liquor they need, so they are going to bring two boxes or more. About 50 couples are going to come to their party.

Task I. Are the following statements **(T)**rue or **(F)**alse?

1. (__) The party is going to be at Alice's apartment while she is away in Europe.

2. (__) Juan Carlos has a very expensive stereo system with karaoke.

3. (__) Juan Carlos is going to hire a DJ because he doesn't want to miss the party

4. (__) His cousin is very good at preparing cocktails.

5. (__) A lot of people are going to bring their CDs for the party.

6. (__) Juan Carlos is single and his girlfriend's name is Clara.

7. (__) He doesn't want to buy any meat. He's going to buy only snacks and sodas.

8. (__) About 100 people are going to come to his party.

9. (__) Juan Carlos doesn't like fatty meat.

10. (__) They are going to drink only beer.

II. Answer the following statements with an appropriate option according to the text.

1. Who is going to host the party?

A) Juan Carlos   **C)** Alice

B) Alfred   **D)** Clara

2. Can Alice speak Portuguese?

A) No, she can't   **C)** Yes, she can
B) No, she doesn't   **D)** Yes, she does

3. How many cocktails and drinks does Alfred know how to prepare?

A) Over 1000   **C)** more than 100
B) less than 1000   **D)** 100

4. Why doesn't Juan Carlos want anyone to touch his stereo?

A) Because he is afraid they don't know how to use it.
B) Because he is the only one who knows how to use it.
C) Because he made it and no one can use it.
D) Because it needs special instructions to work.

5. Juan Carlos is going to buy many things except...

A) cracklings   **C)** beef
B) hamburger meat   **D)** lamb

THE CRISIS OF CCH4P

"Constructing Cheap Homes for People" is a relatively new construction company founded by Armando Paredes, Consuelo de Arenas, and Concha Misas de Pino, three Colombian professionals, who graduated as architects from a prestigious national university.

At the beginning, things were going great and all their projects were acclaimed by the society because they had an excellent distribution of the area, with comfort for their owners. They also had the best landscape designer in South America, Josh M Brador, whose artistic creations got all the customers happy and satisfied with the gardens he designed for all the construction projects.

However, after the last earthquakes in the region, all their projects started to show some failures in their structures. They are trying to find out what happened by monitoring what their employees and contractors had done in the previous years.

Fawn Day Sean was in charge of planning all the basic structures for the buildings, and she used the standardized materials required by law, but she had a contact in China, Tseleekhaen International, which sold materials at a very low price. They found out that this corporation had been involved in other scandals, like a bridge that had not been opened yet

when it fell down with some members of the army on top of it. They were badly hurt.

Consuelo de Arenas had also hired two illegal immigrants from Japan who had excellent recommendations from Tseleekhaen International, Ping Totumuro and his sister Levan. Ping was an expert in architectural finishes and was responsible of painting on the exterior walls, which after a year had big cracks that let humidity from the rain to sip in the walls and also caused cracks inside the apartments.

His sister Levan worked along with Ian Mason putting up the walls, laying every brick perfectly aligned, but suddenly Ian Mason quit and went back to Ireland, where he was from. Ian was replaced by an inexperienced worker, Alba Neal, a desperate housewife and mother who needed to work on anything to feed her five children. For that reason, the walls were not finished correctly. The surfaces were uneven and, consequently, the walls and the painting were defective.

Doors and other wooden elements had a lot of problems, too. Concha Misas de Pino had favored a cousin who had a log yard, "Laverde Woods" and all the timber beams, girders, and the wood used in the roof were made with wood that was not dry enough. After a year, all the wooden architectural

elements started to collapse because the weevil grubs had drilled and eaten most of the green wood in their construction projects. They had to replace everything before the company started to decline and suffer financial problems.

Armando Paredes was also involved in the crisis. He had bribed authorities in order to sell his projects without any problems. During the internal audit, they found out that a lot of irregularities had been hidden for a long time with the complicity of Reggie Strator, from the 11th Notary office who allowed the constructors to sell the properties without a thorough examination of the paperwork and other legal issues.

Recently, other events are taking the company to a dangerous decline and they will probably have to close. The rainy season has caused that most of their projects located on steep lands become unstable and some landslides have affected the buildings' foundations; for example, in the project AREA, all the inhabitants had to be evacuated and they had to leave all of their belongings until one commission declared it safe to get in and take their furniture, electrical home appliances, and personal objects out of the apartments. They said that the structure might fall down at any moment. All the owners are really mad and have had some lawsuits

against CCH4P because they sold them a low-quality property.

The chief executive officer (CEO) of the company, Armando Paredes has been talking with the affected proprietors and has assured that they will give them money to pay a rent in a safe place until they are relocated in another project, but people are really upset and angry at Armando Paredes and they want their money back. Armando Paredes and his associates have just discovered the biggest of their problems; they do not have enough funds to pay back the people or to build a new project because their accountant, Joe Hurtado, has left the country, and before leaving the company he transferred large sums of money to his personal account in the Cayman Islands and other banks in Europe known as tax havens.**--**

Task I. Select an appropriate option to complete the following statements

1. *According to the text, Levan Totumuro and Ian Mason (___).*

  A. are architects.

  B. are bricklayers.

  C. work for a Chinese hardware store.

  D. are husband and wife.

2. *People at the beginning were happy with their apartments because (___).*

A. they couldn't afford them.
B. they had an excellent view of the beach.
C. they were very big and spacious.
D. they were well distributed and comfortable.

3. *Fawn Day Sean was the (___).*

A. engineer who made the calculations for the materials needed.
B. painter who used cheap and non-resistant paint on the walls.
C. curator who allowed the company to build on steep lands.
D. auditor who discovered they used low-quality materials.

4. *"Laverde Woods" (___).*

A) is a hardware store that sold the defective steel to the company.
B) provided the low-quality wooden materials.
C) imported the timber beams and girders from China.
D) is the name of the best log yard in the USA.

5. *Reggie Strator was hiding information about the (____)*

A) legal situation of Ping Totumuro and his sister Levan.

B) problems with the wood in their constructions.

C) irregularities in the paperwork for CCH4P's projects.

D) financial status of the company.

MEALS AND HEALTH

I went to the doctor's office yesterday because I'm worried about my weight. I think I'm very fat. My appointment was at 3:30 and I almost missed it because of a traffic jam. However, I could get there on time. First, a receptionist asked me some information and told me to sit down. I waited one hour, read three old magazines… I finally got in the doctor's office, I sat down and he asked me about my habits. His first question was: "Carlos, do you practice any sport?" But I didn't know what to answer.

I felt embarrassed. He said then: "Don't worry. I never practice any sports, either. I usually play soccer, but on my computer." —I smiled and I told the doctor: "Well, I'm not good at sports. Besides, when I was a teenager I had an accident and I broke

a ligament in my right knee, so I can't practice any sport. I can only walk around my neighborhood." Then, the doctor asked me: "How about your meals? What do you usually have for dinner?" I replied: "I love big dinners! I always eat a big dish of beans, with some rice, and fried beef or pork cracklings. I rarely eat salad." "Oh, oh," the doctor said, "Salad is very important in your meals. It's good for you to eat some salad with your lunch and your dinner." I told the doctor that I liked salad with my hot dogs and hamburgers. He looked at me and told me: "You have to change your lifestyle. I suppose you work behind a desk, in front of a computer all day, five days a week. Is that right?" I nodded. The doctor said again: "At noon, you never eat lunch. You usually have extra work to finish. Is that right?" I nodded again. I felt like a ten-year-old boy in front of his father. His sermon continued: "At three o'clock you take a break and go to the fast food restaurant on the corner and eat a special hamburger, a big order of French fries and a big Coke®. Is that right?" I didn't move my head this time. I couldn't speak, either. I was feeling very embarrassed. The doctor continued: "On weekends, you sit down on your favorite sofa and watch TV all day long. Is that right?" I told the doctor: "OK, doc, stop. I know I need a change. What do you

recommend for me?" He gave me the following advice:

"From now on, you're not going to eat fast food. If you can, go to a nice restaurant at noon, and order a normal dish with some soup. From now on, eat for lunch what you usually eat for dinner. You can even have some dessert. In the morning, you're going to drink some orange juice, and have scrambled eggs twice a week, a cup of coffee, some bread or arepa. Don't put any butter on your bread or arepa. It's not good for your diet. Don't eat much at night. A glass of milk and some cookies are OK." I said thanks and left his office. I think I'm going to follow the doctor's directions.

Task I. Are the following statements **(T)**rue or **(F)**alse?

1. (___) Carlos is worried because he doesn't know how to practice any sports.
2. (___) He got in the doctor's office at 4:30 P.M.
3. (___) Carlos usually plays soccer on his computer.
4. (___) Carlos eats beans for lunch at home every day.
5. (___) Carlos doesn't usually work on weekends.
6. (___) The doctor is Carlos's father.
7. (___) Carlos is going to listen to the doctor's advice.

8. (__) Carlos isn't good at playing soccer.
9. (__) The doctor is good at computer games but he isn't good at playing sports.
10. (__) Carlos was late for his appointment because of a traffic jam.

Task II. Complete the following sentences about Carlos's story.
1. Carlos is at the doctor's office because (…)
   A) he has a problem with a ligament.
   B) he needs a diet
   C) he can't eat very well
   D) he is allergic to cracklings
4. He waited for the doctor…
   A) 30 minutes   **C)** 1 hour
   B) 1 hour and a half   **D)** 45 minutes
5. Carlos usually eats (…) for lunch.
   A) fast food   **C)** meat and salad
   B) beans, rice and cracklings **D)** fruit
6. The doctor…
   A) likes playing computer games and Carlos loves watching TV.
   B) is an expert in sports injuries and traumas.
   C) let Carlos in his office at 3:30.
   D) told Carlos his diet was OK and that he only needed to practice sports.

7. When the doctor criticized Carlos about his bad habits (…)

A) he was happy as a ten-year-old boy.

B) he told the doctor about the sports he practices.

C) he was embarrassed and felt terrible.

D) he didn't accept that he needed a change.
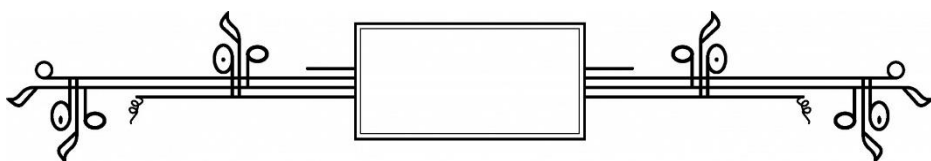
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THE FUTURE OF SHOPPING

At present, it is a common practice to buy products by phone or online. Also, there are many channels with lots of infomercials that show the advantages of many kinds of products. All you have to do is to take your phone, have your credit card at hand and call a 1-800 number or a local number in your city. With the advances in technology, there are no geographical limitations. You can buy anything in the WWW from any place in the world. In the near future, refrigerators will have sensors that will order from the virtual supermarket your milk, meat

and other food items when the system detects that you have run out of them.

Credit and debit cards might disappear or will change their card format into implanted nano-chips under your skin or the iris in your eye. Those codes will be registered by special scanners and the data will be compared in an international database, so when you consume any product, or you enter some security areas, your code will be registered and recorded with the cost of your consumption and time you entered the building. All you will have to do is to place your hand on the sensor and open your eye in front of an iris reader.

Voice recognition might be another means to do your e-shopping. The system will recognize your order and will charge the cost to your personal account. The same system might be used to access your home, office, or security areas in official buildings. In the same ways stated above, you will be able to pay for everything you will consume: Pay-Per-View TV, phone, electricity, restaurants, and many other things.

In this sense, many things won't exist as they do at present. We won't use keys or codes to open doors. We won't need paper money and even bank buildings will disappear. We will be able to walk safely in the streets because the system will detect

if we are nervous and the transactions won't be successful. These security measures will prevent instant kidnappings ("Millionaire Trips") because the police will detect any attempt of robbery and they will find you by tracking your position with a GPS device. Shopping in the future will be the safest for you.

Task I. Complete the following statements with an appropriate option according to the text

1. According to the text, at present, we can buy products in many ways, EXCEPT:

    A) Shops   **C)** TV Infomercial

    B) WWW   **D)** Nano-chips implants

2. To buy by phone, you will not need:

    A) your credit card.

    B) a code or product name

    C) a chip under your skin

    D) an address to have the item sent.

3. With nano-chips implants, thieves won't be able to

    A) go shopping

    B) go home at night

    C) buy products through the WWW

    D) rob money from the banks.

4. *The safest way to spend your money in the future is*

   A) to use technology to replace paper or plastic money.

   B) leave your credit cards at home and carry them only when you really need them.

   C) carry only the cash you need, or distribute it in different pockets, in your shoes, and underwear.

   D) buy everything by credit.

5. *In the future, the systems will NOT __ to charge you for your consumptions:*

   A) recognize your normal voice pattern

   B) read a code from nano-chip implants under your skin

   C) read your iris in your eyes

   D) take ADN from blood samples and send them to a lab to approve your shopping

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A SHOPPING DAY IN THE LIFE OF GIACOMMO PANIAGUA DELGADO

Giacommo is from Italy but his parents are from Colombia and live in Colombia now. At present, he lives in Italy with his wife, Mariana, and his son, Tonino. Giacommo is very thin because he follows a very strict diet. Sometimes, he eats in a

restaurant, but almost always, he eats some bread and drinks a glass of water for breakfast and for dinner. At lunch, he usually eats some salad and some meat in his office. He doesn't tolerate milk... He's allergic to lactose. His wife and son do not like Giacommo's diet. They usually have a normal meal for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They go together to the supermarket, but they have two separate shopping lists, one for Mariana and Tonino, and one for Giacommo.

Giacommo's list is very simple:

15 bottles of water, 3 packets of sliced bread, lettuce, carrots, and some other vegetables and fruit.

Mariana's list includes snacks, drinks, meat (chicken, beef, pork, and fish), chocolates, pasta, milk, cereal -usually cornflakes-, rice, beans, ketchup, mayonnaise, among other things that a normal person eats every day. When they finish their shopping list separately, they always meet at the Butcher's section and then they pay for their food.

Task I. Are the following statements (**T**)rue or (**F**)alse?

1. (__) A normal person does not usually eat only bread and drinks water all the time.

2. (__) Giacommo's parents live in Italy with him.

3. (__) Tonino does not like his father's diet.

4. (__) In Mariana's shopping cart at the supermarket, there are some bags of milk, meat, spaghetti, and other things.

5. (__) Tonino usually eats cereal with milk for breakfast.

6. (__) They never go to the supermarket together.

Task II. Answer the following questions based on the information from the text.

1. Why isn't Giacommo fat? _____

_____

2. Where do Giacommo's parents live at present? They _____

3. What do Mariana and Tonino usually have for lunch? _____

4. Where does Giacommo usually eat lunch?

_____

5. Do they do the shopping together?

_____

THE MOST EXPENSIVE, THE WORST

Last week, I went to the most expensive restaurant in the city: ***Le Faisanne***. I think it is the most **[1]*luxurious and fanciest*** restaurant in the world. But I did not have the best experience of my life there. I just got the **[2]*worst*** stomachache of my life and spent the **[3]*longest*** night of my life in a hospital. Everything began the night I took my girlfriend to dinner. I wanted to impress her, (and you bet she *did* get impressed) so I invited her to Le Faisanne. First, I had to ask a friend to lend me his **[4]*smoking*** jacket because I did not have the appropriate clothes for such a fancy restaurant. I felt embarrassed because I did not know what all those spoons, forks and knives were for. The menu in French was a complete **[5]*puzzle*** to me.

I did not know what to order so I ordered some seafood. I do not ever drink wine, but that night I guess it was not okay to order a coke with seafood. The waiter took so long that when he served the food I had already drank most of the wine. What a surprise! The dish was the smallest I have ever seen in my life. I ate it all and I didn't pay attention to the other people around me. I could feel they were all looking at me. My girlfriend told me to calm down, so I tried to relax. I asked for the **[6]*bill*** and what a surprise... the food was a lot more expensive than I

thought. My girlfriend helped me pay the **6bill** and we left the restaurant with a hundred eyes on us.

In the car, I began to feel sick. We had to stop the car... After ten minutes I was still vomiting, so my girlfriend took me to the hospital. The doctor said that I had an allergic reaction to seafood and that I had to stay there all night long until the effect of the wine was over and they could give me some **7prescription**. My girlfriend could not wait for me because she had to work early next morning, so I stayed there alone with a terrible stomachache.

What I learned from this experience is that you cannot pretend to be more than you are, and that the **8simplest** and true things are better than the most **9expensive**. From now on, I am not going to spend my time and money on a fancy place. I am going to be myself, and I am going to invite my friends to places where we are used to go. If a friend asks me to go to one of those fancy places, I am going to tell him to go to some other place... a fast food restaurant is **10safer**, cheaper, and I can order as many cokes as I want.

Task I. Are the following sentences (**T**)rue or (**F**)alse?

1. (__) Le Faisanne menu is in British English.
2. (__) The man was very happy at the restaurant.
3. (__) The prices at the restaurant were very high.
4. (__) The man learned how to use all kinds of spoons and forks.
5. (__) In this story, the man wanted to impress his girlfriend's father.
6. (__) His girlfriend got sick and stayed at the hospital for two days.
7. (__) They were not able to eat all the food because it was too much.
8. (__) The doctor said that maybe he was allergic to seafood.
9. (__) He learned that he shouldn't try to impress people with false appearances.
10. (__) He loves Coke.

Task II. Complete the statements with similar expressions or synonyms, according to the text.

1. The words "*luxurious and fanciest*" mean:
   A) Informal
   B) Elegant
   C) Specialized
   D) Cheap

2. The word "*worst*" means:
   A) not good
   B) bad
   C) most terrible
   D) not very good

3. The word "*longest*" means:
   A) some hours
   B) a few hours
   C) a short time
   D) many hours

4. The word "*smoking*" is:
   a. a three-piece suit
   b. an elegant white shirt
   c. a cigarette-consuming habit
   d. a pair of special pants

5. "*puzzle*" means
  A) a game to organize a picture
  B) a labyrinth
  C) very difficult to understand
  D) a logogram

6. "*Bill*" means
  A) a person's name.
  B) a piece of paper money [1 dollar.]
  C) a law proposal.
  D) something you have to pay for.

7. "*Prescription*" means
  A) a medicine ordered by a doctor
  B) a laboratory test
  C) a summary by a doctor
  D) a description in the patient's chart.

8. "*Simplest*" means
  A) with no flavor
  B) innocent
  C) modest
  D) not easy

9. "*Expensive*" is the opposite of
  A) big
  B) good
  C) costly
  D) cheap

10. "*Safer*" means
   A) Insecure
   B) more secure
   C) cheaper
   D) harmful

I BELIEVE IN FORTUNE TELLERS

A few weeks ago, I went to the amusement park and I inserted a token into a machine with a big sign: "*Your Future Here*." It was an old booth with a wooden gypsy inside. It was very old, but the machine seemed to work. After I inserted the token, the machine emitted some strange sounds and after a few seconds, a long sheet of old yellow paper came out from a slot. It said: "*You will have a lot of surprises in the next few days. But watch out! Some are good and some are bad… Watch your steps.*" –It said nothing else. I was perplexed and a sense of fear started to run through my veins. When I finished reading the paper, the machine shut off. Immediately, I asked one of the employees, an old man, about the machine and he told me: "*Don't waste your money in that machine. It hasn't worked for years. It has been disconnected since I started to work here 20 years ago.*"

Many things that used to be normal in my life started to change. First, at work, my boss was

friendlier and nicer to me. He even told me about a pending promotion. And he called me by my name! Next, in the evening, Trisha, an old friend from high school, called me. I always liked her but she never paid much attention to me. She asked me to go out next Saturday. Then, Sara, a friend from my neighborhood, called me to tell me that she finally had some money and that she was going to pay me money she owed me in a few days. So far, all of the surprises are good news.

Now I am thinking about my father and I wish I wasn't. I wish the note I received from his lawyer hadn't arrived this morning. I haven't seen or talked to my father for a long time. I have to call him right now... Where is his number? I guess I have it in my old address book... (To be continued)...

Task I. Answer the following questions about the previous text.

  1. What are gypsies famous for? _____
  _____

  2. How did the narrator feel after he read the predictions from the old machine?

  _____

  3. How did the boss treat the narrator before his experience with the machine at the amusement park? _____

4. Who did he have a crush on in high school?

_____

5. Why is he worried about a note from his father's lawyer?

_____
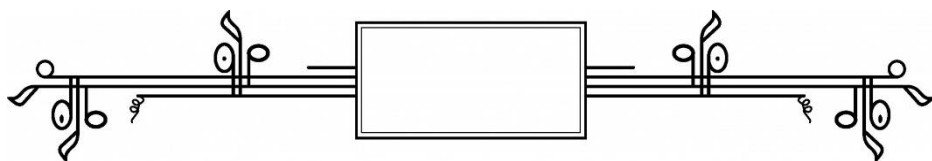
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A STRANGE WEEKEND

Last weekend was very strange for my family and me. **We¹** were driving our car to a small town near our city. When **we²** were driving near an old house beside the road, **we³** saw an old woman sleeping and swinging in a hammock. Next, to **her⁴**, a small boy was playing with some rocks. While **we⁵** were looking at **him⁶**, **he⁷** threw a rock at **us⁸** and **it⁹** broke our windshield. **I¹⁰** got very angry and **we¹¹** stopped immediately to complain about **it¹²**. When we walked towards the old house in ruins, **it¹³** disappeared with the woman and the small boy just before our eyes. We were terrified and ran back to our car. To our surprise, the windshield was not broken.

As we were starting our car again to go to our destination, we saw an old rusty sign. We walked closer to read **it¹⁴** and saw that the road was closed because of a landslide. **It¹⁵** had blocked all the lanes on the road and they need at least two days to restore **it¹⁶**. We had to take a detour to an old road. As we were driving through **it**¹⁷, we noticed that **it**¹⁸ hadn't been used for a long time and some plants had grown 1 meter tall where the tires were supposed to be rolling over. **They¹⁹** made a crushing sound as we drove over the big plants. We had to pass through two small villages. When we stopped at an ugly restaurant for some water in the first village, across from **it²⁰**, we saw a very similar house to the one we had seen before – but a bit better, with a similar hammock hanging from two small trees next to **it²¹**. A boy who looked like the one who broke our windshield, was sleeping in the hammock, but **he²²** was about 3 or 4 years younger. We got out from the car to ask for directions. We saw an old woman, very similar to the old woman who disappeared in front of our eyes before, but much younger. **She²³** told **us²⁴** to keep on driving along the road to the next town. We thanked the woman and continued our trip. In the next town, we were supposed to take back the main road that was closed. The trip took about 3 hours. When we were

getting back to the main road, we saw another empty restaurant and the old house again, but we did not stop to take a closer look at **it²⁵**. Ahead was the second old town. We were very afraid to stop, and there were no signs of life around **it²⁶**.

Suddenly, we were exactly at the same place and time when the boy broke our windshield. We were very frightened and stopped immediately to think about the situation and relax. The warning sign of the landslide was not anywhere. At that moment, while **I²⁷** was parking the car, a huge and terrible landslide fell just in front of our car. **It²⁸** just got a little scratch from a small rock. We were terrified. There was a just space in one of the lanes to drive through slowly. We waited for a few minutes until we didn't hear any noises of rumbling rocks and the dust had gone down. We decided to continue. Finally, when we got to our destination, the town of Between Rivers, we asked the people in the town about our mysterious incident. **Everybody²⁹** told us that we were very lucky to get **there³²** because the woman who lived in the old house had saved our lives. **She³⁰** had died many years ago when many rocks destroyed her house on a night while she was sleeping with her grandson. Since then, **she³¹** has saved many drivers' lives when she knows there is danger in the zone.

Task I. In the previous text, there are some characters and locations which are replaced by some pronouns with **numbers,** marked in **_italics and bold type._** Match each character with its corresponding set of numbers.

Character	Referents
(__)The narrator:	(a) it[17,18]
(__)Narrator's family:	(b) Everybody[29]
(__)Narrator's car:	(c) it[15]
(__)car's windshield:	(d) I[10, 27]
(__)car's tires:	(e) They [19]
(__)Old woman:	(f) it[12]
(__)Old woman's grandson:	(g) Him[6], He[7,22]
	(h) it[9]
(__)Rock thrown by the	(i) We[1, 2, 3 5, 11], Us[8,24]
(__)little boy:	(j) it[28]
(__)Old woman's house:	(k) it[13,21,25]
(__)Old restaurant:	(l) it[20]
(__)Old rusty sign:	(m) it[14]
(__)Landslide:	(n) it[26]
(__)Blocked main road:	(o) There[32]
(__)Old road (detour):	(p) her[4], She[23,31]
(__)Second old village:	(q) it[16]
(__)Their destination, Between Rivers:	
(__)People from Between Rivers:	

Task II. Complete the following statements with the correct option.

1. According to the story, (...)
   A) the police closed the road
   B) an old woman tried to kill them
   C) a ghost saved their lives
   D) a tree broke their car window

2. The man drove through a mysterious place for (...)
   A) one hour
   B) about three hours
   C) one day.
   D) a recommendation.

3. Before they got to their destination, they drove through(...)
   A) a hotel and a new house
   B) a gas station and a restaurant
   C) a wormhole
   D) two ghost villages.

4. He was (...) because the house disappeared in front of his eyes.
   A) hungry
   B) scared
   C) angry
   D) happy

5. *What did they do when the house disappeared?*
  A) They ran away and abandoned their car.
  B) They immediately went back to their city.
  C) They got back immediately to their car.
  D) They drove through a new road.

THE TYRANT PRIME MINISTER'S SON AND THE RAT

(1) Once upon a time in a Middle East nation, there was a boy named Nicholas Rhype, whose adoptive father, Hans Rouhoney, was very rich and powerful. The tyrant prime minister adopted him after his godfather, *Yougo Keyz*, died because of cancer. Nicky, as the prime minister called **him[1]**, had very expensive toys with remote control that his godfather imported for him from exclusive toy manufacturers in *Theywillgo* and *Bylia*. He lived with his adoptive father in a very big castle amidst an impenetrable dessert and thick oases. **They[2]** were protected by an official army, a private army, and heavily trained bodyguards. Every day, Nicky played with his favorite car in dunes and wells around the palace and the petroleum refineries and oil extracting pumps that surrounded **it[3]**. This car was his favorite because he could load it with miniature explosive methane cylinders which were propelled into the air and exploded as **they[4]** landed

on small-scale towns with tiny plastic soldiers wearing green uniforms.

(2) At the bottom of one of the dunes, there was a very deep and dark dry well. Nicky loved playing near that well using it as an obstacle for his car to jump or to launch his miniature explosive cylinders inside. Unfortunately, one day his unloaded car fell into the dry well. He was very unhappy, he sat at the border and started crying.

(3) Suddenly he heard a tiny voice: "Don't cry, little boy." He was surprised, opened his eyes and saw a large gray rat. The big rat said again: "What's your name, boy?" "Nicky." the boy replied. "Nicky what?" the rat asked again. And the boy answered: "Nicholas Rhype… But now I am Nicky Rouhoney because my father died during a chemotherapy treatment in the Caribbean island of Vat." He was silent for a few seconds and then he said: "Oh, please help me! I can't get my car out from the well."

"I'll help you," the rat replied, "if I can come and live with you in the palace!"

"Yes, yes, of course. I promise," little Nicky answered.

Then, the rat jumped into the sewer system and came back with the car. The boy laughed happily

and took his car. He ran quickly back to the palace and forgot all about the promise he made to the rat. The rat was very angry and followed little Nicky into the palace and told the story to the prime minister Rouhoney.

"A promise is a promise," said the rat. "Yes," said the prime minister and called his son. "A promise is a promise, my son. Take this rat to your room and lock it carefully with the snakes in our serpentarium."

(4) Nicky smiled, winked an eye to his father, and took the rat and put *it*[5] in the serpentarium. The rat looked at him and said loudly, "Please let me out!" Nicky started to close the serpentarium cover and laughed at the rat with an evil expression on his face. Immediately, the rat broke the glass as it jumped into Nicky's face, and it bit his nose. Nicky became an ugly old rat. Some minutes later, the rat ran to prime minister Rouhoney's office and bit his father, his bodyguards, all the ministers and private soldiers. Of course, all of them became old ugly rats too, and they had to abandon the palace because they had very big domesticated desert lions to keep away rats and undesirable opposition members. Many soldiers and ministers couldn't escape from the lions and died helplessly.

(5) One week later, the people from that country were immensely happy because all the corrupt ministers and the tyrant had disappeared. They could have democratic elections again after 20 years of tyranny and with a new democratic president, they lived happily ever after without the rats and the terrible economic conditions. The treasures and wealth were redistributed among the poorest people of the country and everyone could have a stable job.

Task I. Are the following statements about the story (**T**)rue or (**F**)alse,?
1. (__) Nicholas Rhype was a prime minister of an oil-rich country in the Middle East.
2. (__) Their castle was built on a petroleum reserve with an oases area.
3. (__) Little Nicky played filling small cistern tank trunks with the crude oil extracted around his castle.
4. (__) Nicky had snakes as pets in his house.
5. (__) One snake helped him recover his favorite toy car from a very deep dry well.

Task II. What /Who do the pronouns from the text refer to? Select an appropriate option.

1. *Him[1]* in the first paragraph of the story refers to (...)
   A) President of *Theywillgo.*
   B) Prime minister Rouhoney.
   C) Nicky Rhype.
   D) Bylian ex-president and general Pinechest.

2. *They[2]* in the 1st paragraph refers to (...)
   A) Hans Rouhoney and Nicky
   B) the soldiers
   C) Nicholas Rhype and his godfather Yougo Keyz
   D) the bodyguards

3. *It[3]* in the 1st paragraph refers to (...)
   A) the oil refineries that surrounded his palace.
   B) Nicky's favorite toy car.
   C) the street where he always played.
   D) Nicky's father's castle.

4. *They[4]* in the 1st paragraph refers to:
   A) Nicky's favorite toy cars
   B) the small toy houses Nicky destroyed.
   C) the toy gas cylinders Nicky played with.
   D) the toy soldiers Tim killed in his games.

5. *It*[5] in the 4th paragraph refers to:
   A) Nicky's biggest snake in his serpentarium.
   B) Prime minister Rouhoney converted into a rat.
   C) the promise Nicky made to the rat.
   D) the old rat that helped Nicky.

Task III. Match the following topics or subtitles with their corresponding paragraphs in the story.

(__) A broken promise	• Paragraph (1)
(__) Divine justice for a rat and a nation.	• Paragraph (2)
	• Paragraph (3)
(__) From orphan to oil sheik prince	• Paragraph (4)
(__) The rebirth a free nation.	• Paragraph (5)
(__) The oil prince's playground	

THE STORY OF BIG BLACK RIDING HOOD

(1) Once upon a time, there was a big and strong girl called Petronila who lived with her father and her step-mother in King Peter's lands in an old wooden house near the woods far away from town. ***She*[1]** wore all the time an old ragged black riding hood, so her step-mother all the time called her disdainfully "Big Black Riding Hood". Her father, when they collecting wood, used to call her tenderly

"My Little Petty." **They²** were very poor and she had to help her father in the woods cutting down trees for firewood to sell in town.

(2) Every Saturday and Sunday, they went to the central square of the town to sell the firewood and buy salt and other things they needed for them at home. One Saturday morning, the King's Minister of Sports saw Petronila carrying a heavy bunch of firewood on her shoulders and was very surprised: "She is so strong!" She can easily lift any weight. She is perfect for representing **our kingdom³** in the competition against King Wolf.

(3) That night, while her father was drinking as usual at the tavern with some friends, someone knocked the door at her room in the old inn. She put on her old ragged black riding hood and opened the door slightly. It was a strong black man with royal clothes and expensive boots. Without opening the door totally, she shyly asked: "Can I help you, sir?"

"My name is Sir Elber do Laga, I come on behalf of King Peter. I am his Minister of Sports" **he⁴** said firmly. "I saw you this morning in the central square and I... I thought that you could compete with us against King Wolf in the yearly jousts. **We⁵** need a strong person like you."

"Yes, yes, of course... But isn't it a competition for men?" She asked doubtfully. In her mind, she

wanted to accept so she could help her father, but she knew that her step-mother would not allow her to participate in such competition.

"We can solve that…" Sir Elber said. "We can cut your hair and make you look like one of our athletes. And about your step-mother, she will have to accept, because I have some secrets she doesn't want your father to know about your mother's death".

Petronila accepted promptly. Sir Elber sat down and **they**[6] talked about payment, insurance, and other arrangements in case she won or she failed and died. At 2 AM her father came back from the tavern and listened to the whole situation… He listened carefully and accepted immediately.

(4) "So tomorrow we will start the training." Sir Elber said. "But I have to pick up my things at home" Petronila replied. "No, **we**[7] have to go now, before the sun rises. We have to keep this in absolute secret." Sir Elber demanded and pulled her by her arm through a dark passage that took them to a small secret yard where a big carriage was waiting for them behind the old inn.

(5) Her father didn't know anything about his daughter for three months, until one Sunday he heard in the town the news about the Annual Sports Jousts among the kingdoms of the region, including

King Peter and King Wolf. The news were very good and ***they*[8]** were having a hard competition. Petronila was the first in many events and she started to call King Wolf's attention. He admired the ability and strength of this competitor who everybody called "The Lumberjack". King Wolf was worried because he was losing money and he called the Lumberjack in secret to convince him to lose the competitions... He promised that he would pay him fourfold what King Peter promised to pay if he won.

(6) Petronila didn't say anything because she couldn't speak. If she spoke, everybody would discover her because of her soft childish voice. She didn't accept and she ran quickly to her team headquarters and fell down the stairs... When she stood up she felt a terrible pain in her arm and couldn't explain Sir Elber how she had broken it. Sir Elber was very clear about the conditions and King Peter didn't pay her anything. As she didn't accept King Wolf's offer she didn't get anything from this secret meeting but a broken arm. To make things worse, King Peter was angry at Petronila because ***he*[9]** lost all games, and he ordered his soldiers to kill Petronila.

(7) Sadly, Petronila had to run away and went back to her house with her step-mother and father. She couldn't help ***them*[10]** anymore because her arm was

crippled, and her father had to work alone the rest of his life as a poor lumberjack in another town until he died. She spent the rest of her days crying and cleaning her tears with her old dirty and ragged black riding hood.

Moral: Dirty jobs and lies to get easy money just bring misfortune and poverty.

Task I. Complete the statements with the correct option.

1. According to the text, Petronila (...)
   A) was a famous sportswoman.
   B) was a poor maid in King Wolf's palace.
   C) was very strong and tall.
   D) lived with her mother and her step-father.

2. Her step-mother mostly called her (...)
   A) Big Black Riding Hood.
   B) Petronila.
   C) Lumberjack.
   D) Little Petty.

3. On Saturdays and Sundays, Petronila and her father (...)
   A) trained hard for the annual jousts.
   B) cut down trees in the woods.
   C) sold firewood in town.
   D) watched joust competitions in the town's regional channel.

4. She was sleeping in her inn room one Saturday night when (…)

  A) King Wolf offered her to participate in a competition.

  B) a representative of King Peter's government asked her to be in their jousts team.

  C) she fell from her bed and broke her arm.

  D) one tree fell on the inn's roof.

5.When Petronila first heard the Minister of Sports' proposal, she (…)

  A) definitely rejected the offer.

  B) had some doubts but accepted.

  C) asked her step-mother for her opinion.

  D) accepted immediately.

Task II. Are the following statements about the story **(T)rue**, **(F)alse**, or **(N)ot** mentioned at all in the text?

1.(__) Petronila was a little afraid of her step-mother.

2.(__) Lumberjack didn't like going to the town because his father used to drink all night long and spend all the money they earned in the rasketball competitions.

3.(__) Petronila's step-mother was involved in the death of her father's first wife.
4.(__) Petronila changed her name so she could participate in the competitions as a man.
5.(__) Petronila was actually King Wolf's daughter, but her father never knew about the affair between his wife and King Wolf while he was selling firewood in town.

Task III. Write synonym expressions, definitions, or exemplifications for the following expressions from the text.

1. (_____) Made of wood _
2. (_____) Park
3. (_____) Question in a timid, fearful way
4. When a person exercises hard on a routine for a competition, he or she has to (_____) everyday
5. In old times, the competitions among many athletes and knights where some of them had to die and only a few survived were called (_____).
6. When you have the characteristics and behavior of a little boy or girl, you are (_____).
7. The opposite of *happily* is (_____).

Task IV. What /Who do the pronouns from the text refer to? Select an appropriate option.

1. *She¹* in the first paragraph of the story refers to (…)

  A) Petronila's step-mother.
  B) Her mother-in-law.
  C) Petronila.
  D) Petronila's mother.

2. *They²* in the 1st paragraph refers to (…)

  A) Petronila, her father and his second wife
  B) Petronila and her mother
  C) Her old father and his deceased wife
  D) Petronila and her little brothers

3. *Our kingdom³* in the 2nd paragraph refers to (…)

  A) King Wolf's kingdom
  B) King Peter's kingdom.
  C) The world of jousts in that region
  D) regional beauty pageant

4. *He⁴* in 3rd paragraph refers to (…)

  A) King Peter
  B) the Minister of Sports
  C) King Wolf
  D) Petronila's father

5. **We⁵** in 3rd paragraph refers to (…)
   A) King Wolf's kingdom
   B) Petronila and Sir Elber
   C) King Wolf and King Peter
   D) Sir Elber and King Peter

6. **They⁶** in 3rd paragraph refers to (…)
   A) Sir Elber, Petronila and her father.
   B) Lumberjack and Sir Elber.
   C) King Peter and Petronila.
   D) Petronila's father and King Wolf.

7. **We⁷** in 4th paragraph refers to (…)
   A) Sir Elber and Petronila's father.
   B) Petronila and her father.
   C) Petronila and Sir Elber.
   D) King Peter and Petronila.

8. **They⁸** in 5th paragraph refers to (…)
   A) all sportsmen in the jousts.
   B) King Peter and King Wolf.
   C) Petronila and The Lumberjack.
   D) Petronila's parents.

9. **He⁹** in 6th paragraph refers to (…)
   A) The Lumberjack.
   B) King Wolf.
   C) King Peter.
   D) Sir Elber do Laga.

10. *them*[10] in 7th paragraph refers to (…)
   A) her parents.
   B) her brothers.
   C) the kings.
   D) all sportsmen.

Magni Animi Viri, a rarity among the world of music
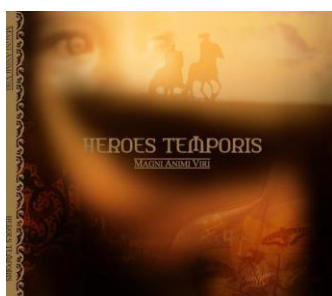
(A) The title suggests an old Gregorian chant **oeuvre** from an *anonymous* author collected in an old manuscript found somewhere in a forgotten library, but it is not. It is the name of a group of Italian musicians who played for different symphonic, metal, and progressive rock groups in the past and some guests who joined this adventure. They got together once ––in 2006- to make a **masterpiece concept album** for rock opera called "Heroes Temporis," and it was released in 2007. They do not have a **label** and they could not afford all the expenses of an album themselves. They played along with the Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra which enhanced the simplicity of their **lyrics** in Italian and Latin to a superb limit. Giancarlo Trotta,

a classical musician, and a progressive rock musician who goes by the stage name Luca Contegiacomo, made all the musical arrangements and programming with the help of Marco Sfogli (from James La Brie's band) on the guitar, Randy Coven (member of the group ARK) on the *bass*, and John Macaluso (from Yngwie Malmsteen and ARK) on the drums. Also, in the vocals, were the participation of the *tenor* Francesco Napoletano and Ivana Giugliano whose voices shined all along this great piece of unique music.

(B) The combination of 70's Italian progressive rock, modern-progressive metal, classical and opera music combines –the best of all worlds and making the listener come back to this for more. There are some fragments where you seem to be listening to Il Divo, or sometimes to Andrea Bocelli, but when the heavy guitars and drumming enters you are immediately *detached* from the classical music concept and *shifted* to the world of symphonic metal and progressive rock. The main topic goes around a sequel to PFM's Dracula, telling the story of an introspective trip for knowledge and purification which ends up with the discovery that reality is only an illusion.

(C) Trotta and Contegiacomo had previously worked as studio professionals with many groups and genres. In the decade of 1990's they made some covers just for fun, but they got tired of the same studio routines and decided to do something great. That is how they planned everything for "Magni Animi Viri," which means "Men of Great Virtue," with the guidance of Professor Pietro Ruggiero who wrote for them the story of a man who started a journey into himself, an introspective epic trip. That story could only be put together with the ensemble of formal music and the energy of rock, all together in body and soul. The key to understanding the opera is the fight of a materialist man against himself, a fight of a man versus his unstoppable materialist growth pushed by the earthly side of his humanhood.

(D) Trotta and Contegiacomo took special care of every detail of the opera "Heroes Temporis". All the arrangements were carefully planned and rehearsed many times over. They trusted the **conducting** of the symphonic orchestra to Maestro Giacomo Simonelli, who took that lead as an on-going project where every musician involved gave a piece of himself. Each artist had to draw on

previous experiences and everybody learned enthusiastically. The name of the opera represents the Time Heroes, a group of symbolic knights full of energy and positive forces, virginity inside each of the musicians, and cheated a little as in reading the tarot. The main character's story is developed along the songs: he makes use of these positive forces and energy when he is facing the most difficult moments.

(E) For Magni Animi Viri progressive rock is a synthesis of musical *freedom*. Everything can fit in if you use it well. Progressive rock is a great means for all kinds of expressions, such as the results obtained by Pink Floyd and King Crimson whose musical pieces were characterized by their dynamism and ability of expression. "Heroes Temporis", in the words of the group leaders, fits in the canons of the most primordial progressive rock, the same which gave birth to groups like *Nice*, *Procol Harum*, *Moodle Blues* and many other recent groups such as *Dream Theater*, *Symphony X,* and *PFM*.

(F) "Heroes Temporis" has a perfect equilibrium for listeners who like classical music, opera, heavy metal, and progressive rock. It is not the kind of rock album to go pogoing, but to hear with a little

more attention to the development of the story and have a chat with someone who has some knowledge of Italian to take a look at the lyrics. You can listen to some fragments at:

http://ohmytracks.com/#/index.php/music/Magni+Animi+Viri

Information translated and adapted from sites in Spanish and English retrieved on May 7th, 2012:

- http://www.maelstrom.nu/ezine/review_iss55_4107.php
- http://www.prognaut.com/reviews/mav.html
- http://www.musicstreetjournal.com/cdreviews_display.cfm?id=100247
- http://www.manticornio.com/entrevistas/MAGNI-ANIMI-VIRI/entrevista-MAV.html

Task I. Identify Main Ideas. Write the letter of the paragraphs that corresponds to each of the following topics/main ideas.

Paragraph (A) Paragraph (B) Paragraph (C) Paragraph (D) Paragraph (E) Paragraph (F)	• (__)Their definition of progressive rock. • (__) What music styles and trends are part of this musical creation? • (__) What or who is Magni Animi Viri? • (__) How was this project undertaken? • (__) Who is this CD for?

Task II. Are these statements (T)rue or (F)alse?

1. (__) Heroes Temporis is the reconstruction with modern instruments of a medieval manuscript with madrigals about some knights.
2. (__) Trotta and Contegiacomo have worked for a long time with Pink Floyd and King Crimson
3. (__) The story developed in the album is about a man who reflects about his own life and the dichotomies of his acts.
4. (__) The arrangements and special effects for the album were done by the studio experts Napoletano and Giugliano.

5. (<mark>_</mark>) The classical arrangements were left to maestros Ruggiero and Giacomo Simonelli.

Task III. Match each term with its corresponding definition. One of the definitions is **not used** because is not part of this context.

A	B
(_) oeuvre (_) concept album (_) masterpiece (_) lyrics (_) label (_) conduct	(a) The words of a song. Often used in the plural (b) to lead a musical group or an orchestra. (c) to let electricity from point A to point B (d) **1.** The most outstanding work of a creative artist or craftsman. **2.** An outstanding achievement. (e) an album whose recording is unified by some theme (instrumental or lyrical or narrative or compositional) (f) **1**. The total output of a writer or artist (or a substantial part of it). **2.** Works (g) a company that makes and sells musical recordings

Task IV. Complete the sentences according to the text.

1. Magni Animi Viri has a large influx of (_____ _____) and (_____ _____) in their work "Heroes Temporis".
2. Magni Animi Viri spent a lot of (____ ___ _____) to finally release their CD. It was an (_____) project, but it was worth the effort.
3. When you follow a pattern or way to compose a kind of music, you say that you follow a (_____) of that particular musical style.
4. The word "audience" refers to the fans or people who (_____) loyally to a particular kind of music and similar genres.
5. Pietro Ruggiero wrote the script or (_____) for the opera while Maestro Giacomo Simonelli worked on the musical (_____) with the participation or some guest musicians.
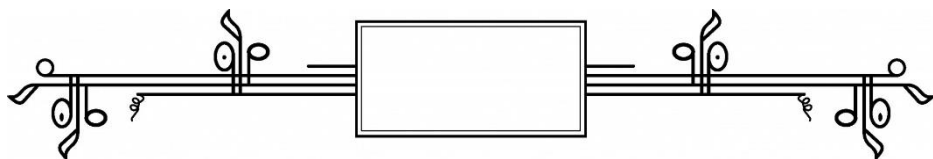
Check the platform for the third test with a value of 5%

SOME UNIQUE SAYINGS AND COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSIONS IN THIS LAND OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Pre-reading. Read these questions. Then read the passage. It will give you the answers.

1. Are idioms and colloquial expressions impossible to translate?
2. How can you find equivalences for the most difficult colloquialisms?
3. Does weight have to do with your feelings towards another person?
4. What are the words in Latin American Spanish to say you like something?
5. What do they call a person who misbehaves in public?

(A) For foreigners, it is not easy to learn another language, especially when that language is widely used *in different geographical regions and sub-regions with some varieties and different usage of some terms*. It happens in any language and the mastery of such variety is only achieved by a few scholars who *devote their entire life to studying and researching* the phenomenon.

(B) Through their life and practice, teachers find some funny situations related to the use of machine translation and literal word-by-word translations with printed dictionaries. Students try to adapt

their colloquial expressions into the new language but most of them fail to get the appropriate expression that probably exists in the target language. Some of the *refrains and sayings* are so particular and belong to such closed circles or situations that there are not equivalents to express such ideas in the target language. Only *highly experimented linguists and philologists* would be able to find an equivalent expression to all the things that our current students would like to express in their writings.

(C) The basic rule for writing something based on our colloquial expressions is the use of paraphrasing and restating the idea into a *more accessible language* where the order of elements should be changed as well as the word choice. Those ideas might also need *further explanation and contextualization* in order to be understood universally or at least in the countries where the target language is spoken.

(D) To start this short linguistic exploration, the words will be presented in alphabetical order. The first expression is used *when a person is interested in some activity and it seems that you would have to register first in order to participate in it*. The expression is currently accompanied by other interjections and colloquial expressions that make

the translation a bit difficult to get. Let's suppose that there is a trip to the coastal region of Colombia and the host tells you about a place for you in the cabin near the beach and a seat for you in the microbus. He asks you if *you would like to go*, of course by paying the corresponding fee for your stay in that place. Your answer in plain English should be "**Count me in**." A novice user of English perhaps would look up in the Internet to get: "*I sign (me) up*" trying to use the expression "*apuntarse,*" in a longer sentence like "¡*Yo me apunto*!" In the same fashion, the invitation to join that trip might look like: "¿*Te le apuntás a un paseo que tenemos a la costa*?" which in the most accurate English would be: "*Would you like to go on a trip to the coastal region with us?*" In literal machine translation, we obtain a totally nonsense translation: "**Are you a ride you aim we have to shore?**" (*All the nonsense translations from this example and other examples are taken directly from http://translate.google.com.co/)

(E) Let's analyze another colloquial expression. Most of our foreign tourists are confused when they are questioned about *how they have felt* in our city. The question aims *to know whether the person is happy and/or comfortable* in Colombia. No matter how much Spanish they have studied at their places

of origin, they never understand the question "*¿Está amañado?*" Normally the tourist needs the guidance of a person who also speaks English or the visitor's native language so he can understand the question.

Machine translation gives us this result: "**Are you rigged?**" where "**rig**" refers to a *fraudulent manipulation of something in order to obtain a higher profit* as in elections or in any kind of business with fake accounting. In some other regions where people also speak Spanish as their native language, the term "*amañado*" has the same connotation of "*illegal*" or "*manipulated to give someone advantage over another person*."

(F) The word "*bejuco*" does not make reference to *long-stemmed woody vines* which became famous for being Tarzan's means of transportation in the jungle. Those are also known as "*lianas*." But being or getting "bejuco" makes reference to *the feeling some people have when something they were planning goes wrong or failed*. So the expression in English "*getting angry at something or somebody*" is equivalent to "embejucarse" o "ponerse bejuco" that you might hear in some regions of Colombia.

(G) In all languages, there are interesting and funny *pick-up lines*. In Colombia, there is an expression that might lead the visitor to a culinary concept

original from the Latin "bis coctus" that means "cooked twice." In fact, the term is part of a pick-up line any beautiful woman would hear as she is walking down the street: "Good bye gorgeous" or "Adiós bizcocho" would easily be misinterpreted by machine translation as "Farewell cake!" since "bizcocho" is the name for a special cake usually offered along with champagne to guests at weddings, first communions, and many other familiar and social events.

(H) For any person to go to a cultural event, concert, soccer match, or whatever requires *a printed control to be picked up at the entrance*, it is a necessary "*ticket*." The Colombian word "*Boleta*," besides the meaning of *ticket*, refers to *the bad taste a person has to dress, or the gross or inappropriate way to behave outdoors in public places and events*. So the most appropriate expressions in English for "*Esa pelada es muy boleta*" or "*Ese tipo con tragos se boletea muy feo*" would be: "*That girl dresses so sloppily*" and "*When that guy gets drunk he behaves terribly*."

(I) Perhaps when a visitor does not understand us he should say "*Please speak more slowly and give me more details*." In Colombia many people say "*Barájemela más despacio*" and that would be difficult to understand for any person unless he or

she knows something about playing cards which implies *dealing cards* and *providing the players with a specific number of cards for a game*. The analogy refers to cards as words or contents that the person needs to hear more details to understand.

(J) Philosophers and other professionals from humanistic sciences do not like the fact that many people see their job as *fruitless, purposeless and useless since it yields nothing interesting or to make a profit from*. For those kinds of activities, Colombians have the expression "*Botar corriente*" which is also useful to refer to those *situations where you have to think about many situations but in the end, you can't solve anything*. In that sense it could be interpreted as "*throwing away or wasting energy and/or time on an unsuccessful project*" which in the sentence "*No botes corriente con esa vieja que no vas a llegar a ningún Pereira*" might seem very appropriate: "*Don't waste your time with that woman* (particularly an ordinary, worthless woman) *because that relationship won't get far*." The expression "*Llegar a ningún Pereira*" refers to the fact that something you began is not going to end well, so it is not worth wasting your time and effort. The risk of getting an awful machine translation might result in this nonsense statement:

"***Do not throw that old stream that you will not get anywhere Pereira***"

(K) The image of *a fat man falling down on you* is very awkward and unlikely, but in Colombia when you don't like a person because of his or her behavior, appearance, or there is no chemistry between the two people involved in an uncomfortable situation, the other person "*te cae gorda/o*." Sometimes the *feeling* gets to extremes *such as hating, avoiding places the other person concurs, and even trying to hurt that person*. The feeling is also expressed in the sentence "*I can't stand him/her*."

(L) When a person is *naïve and believes everything* anybody tells him or her, that person might "*buy it*" when being told that Ferrero, the Italian factory that sells chocolate candies, has hens which are fed with white and brown chocolate, and swallow plastic pieces to lay the famous "kinder" eggs exported worldwide. The same happens in Colombia when politicians are running for president. Many Colombians "*nos comemos el cuento*" or "*trust their story*" and end up electing those people who in the past had done awful things. That is possible because we don't have a memory for politics. We do not remember our history and tend to repeat the same mistakes over and over

letting those politicians "*meternos los dedos en la boca*" at their will, that is, we know they are liars, they keep telling lies, but we still trust them and give them our votes.

(M) There is a very common word not only in Colombia but also in some Central and South American countries. It comes from the Efik, an African language, and makes reference to an *adjective meaning good, nice, cool, or groovy*. Everyone says it *when they like something* and use it as an exclamation: ¡Chévere! It has a local synonym expression ¡Bacano! an original word from the Colombian coastal region with a very different connotation from a similar word in Argentina "Bacán" that originated on the expression "Backhand," referring to people who had a lot of money –or pretended to have it- and kept their hands back in order to protect their wallets from pickpockets in dangerous zones of the River Plate. Notice that the expression "Bacán" is also used to refer to people who are usually good or cool friends and nice to everyone. In another context where there are gang connotations, the members might call each other "bacán," "parcero" – a kind of partner-, and other derogative terms that are okay among the members of such groups.

(N) For many developing countries all over the world, it is a shame to have homeless people around downtown streets and markets where they have more possibilities to get some scraps of food to survive. Some time ago, Colombia faced a terrible violence period when some outlaws –illegal groups of armed people- exerted a very hard pressure on these people and tried "to clean" the streets by removing them violently, threatening them or even killing those who were involved in drug dealing or had been seen stealing from the pedestrians who walked down the streets where they used to hang out. The homeless were given a terrible name, "desechables," as if they were an old plastic disposable plate or glass, a piece of garbage, or a plague that could be killed and thrown away on a sidewalk. The derogative term is now also applied to many drug addicts who abandoned their houses and their clothes get all ragged and dirty. When a person stinks, his clothes are dirty or sloppy, he is said to look like a "desechable." Fortunately, that concept has been detached from the people who go around the city picking up glass, paper, metal objects and other recyclable materials from the garbage just before the collector trucks pick up the garbage bags around the city. These people are helping the environment and making a decent

living. The government has provided them with IDs and uniforms so they can be members of some cooperatives and corporations which let them improve the quality of their lives.

(O) In many situations we are advised to "watch our backs", "take care," and similar recommendations. In Colombia, there is an expression related to a tropical fruit: "dar papaya" which means to act carelessly so others can take advantage of that. It is considered by the Colombians as the 11th commandment: "***Don't give papaya*** –*don't make any mistakes*-, ***and if they give you papaya*** –*that is someone makes a mistake or leaves something valuable unattended*-, ***take advantage of it***." A similar expression with the fruit means that something is very easy to do, within your reach and skills, at the right time and place, or "piece of cake." So, in those cases some activities or tasks "estaban de papayita."

(P) There are hundreds of examples of colloquialisms that could be explained in this text and perhaps will be treated in another publication. But for now, we will analyze the last one. It apparently makes reference to "making something dirty with mud," but in fact, it is a very strong slang expression in English: "Screw something up." The expression has also a connotation in Spanish with

feces, as if you had let your feces on something you should have done well but you did it totally wrong. The soft version of the expression in Spanish is "embarrarla." The purpose of these paragraphs has been to make you aware of the language you use sometimes when you are learning a language and you end up "embarrándola" by using literal or machine translation with some very particular expressions that require a special treatment and paraphrasing in the target language because those cultural situations or the words associated to them don't usually happen or exist in the country where the target language we are learning is spoken.

Task I. Notice that each paragraph has a letter (A-P) Write the corresponding letter in front of the topics below.

(__)You should try to find explanations and other expressions in order to get to the idea expressed in a colloquialism.

(A) It is difficult to learn a language which has a wide variety of usages of the same terms within a whole region

(__) L2 students are the best source to find curious expressions which don't exist in the target language and need a special treatment to be translated.

(__) You don't like a person? It doesn't have to do with how much he weighs.

(__) The king of the jungle might also get angry if something bad happened to him, or to his friends.

(__) Not all that shines is gold… Do not trust everyone or everything you hear.

(__) One of the biggest complaints from women is that men see them as an object, or even worst, as something edible.

(__) There are some words to say you like something, but you need to know when to say them.

(__) When you feel like doing something it seems that you have to register for doing it, in an informal way.

(__) Wrapping a tropical fruit as a present is not the purpose of this expression. The idea is to be careful with all your acts.

(__) Try to focus your attention on productive and successful activities and don't waste your time.

(__) It is important to behave well at a concert or another cultural event, especially when the ticket was expensive.

(__) Being more than careful is a requirement to avoid doing something inappropriate that you might be ashamed of or even the cause of bigger problems.

(__)It is not only the way gamblers speak, most of us have the same problem even at some coastal regions where people speak very fast and shortens words.

(__) It is not desirable, but inevitably some derogatory expressions have emerged to refer to poor people and their way of dressing.

(__) Sometimes to be happy and comfortable might make you feel as if you were into something illegal.

Task II. Find the expressions, synonyms and exemplifications in the text for the expressions below.

1. *"Widely* used" means that that something is used _____.

2. "scholars" are people who _____ _____

3. Colloquial expressions are also known as _____

4. When an idea needs paraphrasing and restating, you have to use _____ _____.

5. The sea shore is also known in English as _____.

6. To rig something has the same meaning of _____.

7. A liana is a _____ _____

8. When you try to get a girl's attention –or vice versa- in English you usually say a _____ _____ trying to flatter the other person about his/her beauty.

9. To act inappropriately in a social event or dress inconveniently, has an expression in Spanish equivalent to the English word _____ which in English doesn't make any reference to bad behavior in public, but to a piece of paper.

10. If spoken words were cards in a poker game and you didn't have a lot of experience in gambling, you would probably ask the card dealer to _"_____ _____" _ so you could understand better.

11. Most people don't see it convenient to _____ _____ on an unproductive activity because they don't want to spend a lot of time on a trip that won't get them even close to Pereira.

12. In Spanish, there is an expression to say you don't like a person, but it is not related to any extent to that person's weight. That feeling can be

so intense that you might _____, or even try to harm that person.

13. Sometimes we know a person's background and we know his/her reputation is not to be trusted. However, after some time we tend to forget and forgive and we perhaps will still believe in their _____ to be fooled again.

14. "Chévere" is a cool word in Spanish that speakers use to express their comfort about something and assure it is _____ or _____.

15. Armed people who belong to an illegal group are also known as _____.

Task III. Are the following statements (**T**)rue, (**F**)alse, or (**N**)ot mentioned at all in the text?

1. (__) Most languages in the world are exclusive to one country only and don't have a common origin or expressions to describe cultural situations.
2. (__) Sometimes you have to restate and contextualize a colloquial expression in order to make it understandable in another language.
3. (__) For traveling in the jungle by using lianas you have to pay VAT.
4. (__) Some pick-up lines to conquer women and other colloquial expressions make a curious use of terms related to food.
5. (__) In Colombia, to see a man get drunk and misbehave terribly in a public event, you have to buy a ticket.

Text for the final exam (5%)
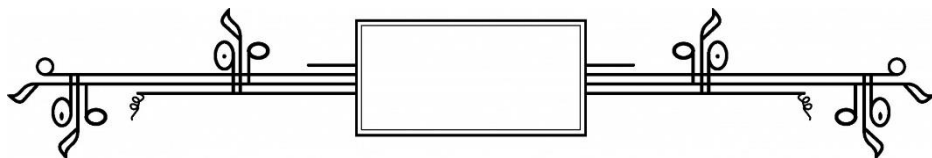
Check the platform for the fourth test with a value of 5%

The WWW

Scheme specifiers

The scheme specifiers *http://* and *https://* at the start of a web <u>URI</u> (Uniform Resource Identifier) refer to <u>Hypertext Transfer Protocol</u> or <u>HTTP Secure</u>, respectively. They specify the communication protocol to use for the request and response. The HTTP protocol is fundamental to the operation of the World Wide Web, and the added encryption layer in HTTPS is essential when browsers send or retrieve confidential data, such as passwords or banking information. Web browsers usually automatically prepend http:// to user-entered URIs, if omitted.

WWW prefix

Many hostnames used for the World Wide Web begin with *www* because of the long-standing practice of

naming Internet hosts according to the services they provide. The hostname of a web server is often *www*, in the same way that it may be *ftp* for an FTP server, and *news* or *nntp* for a Usenet news server. These host names appear as Domain Name System (DNS) or subdomain names, as in *www.example.com*. The use of *www* is not required by any technical or policy standard and many web sites do not use it; the first web server was *nxoc01.cern.ch*.[46] According to Paolo Palazzi,[47] who worked at CERN along with Tim Berners-Lee, the popular use of *www* as subdomain was accidental; the World Wide Web project page was intended to be published at www.cern.ch while info.cern.ch was intended to be the CERN home page, however the DNS records were never switched, and the practice of prepending *www* to an institution's website domain name was subsequently copied. Many established websites still use the prefix, or they employ other subdomain names such as *www2*, *secure* or *en* for special purposes. Many such web servers are set up so that both the main domain name (e.g., example.com) and the *www* subdomain (e.g., www.example.com) refer to the same site; others require one form or the other, or they may map to different web sites. The use of a subdomain name is useful for load balancing incoming web traffic by creating a CNAME record that points to a cluster of web servers. Since, currently, only a subdomain can be used in a CNAME, the same result cannot be achieved by using the bare domain root.[48]

When a user submits an incomplete domain name to a web browser in its address bar input field, some web browsers automatically try adding the prefix "www" to the beginning of it and possibly ".com", ".org" and ".net" at the end, depending on what might be missing. For example, entering 'microsoft' may be transformed to *http://www.microsoft.com/* and 'openoffice' to *http://www.openoffice.org*. This feature started appearing in early versions of <u>Firefox</u>, when it still had the working title 'Firebird' in early 2003, from an earlier practice in browsers such as <u>Lynx</u>.[49] It is reported that Microsoft was granted a US patent for the same idea in 2008, but only for mobile devices.[50]

In English, <u>*www* is usually read as</u> *double-u double-u double-u*.[51] Some users pronounce it *dub-dub-dub*, particularly in New Zealand. Stephen Fry, in his "Podgrams" series of podcasts, pronounces it *wuh wuh wuh*.[52] The English writer <u>Douglas Adams</u> once quipped in <u>*The Independent*</u> *on Sunday* (1999): "The World Wide Web is the only thing I know of whose shortened form takes three times longer to say than what it's short for".[53] In Mandarin Chinese, *World Wide Web* is commonly translated via a <u>phono-semantic matching</u> to *wàn wéi wǎng* (**万维网**), which satisfies *www* and literally means "myriad dimensional net",[54][*better source needed*] a translation that reflects the design concept and proliferation of the World Wide Web. Tim Berners-Lee's web-space states that *World Wide Web* is officially spelled as three separate words, each capitalised, with no intervening hyphens.[55] Use of the www prefix has been declining, especially

when Web 2.0 web applications sought to brand their domain names and make them easily pronounceable.[56] As the mobile Web grew in popularity, services like Gmail.com, Outlook.com, Myspace.com, Facebook.com and Twitter.com are most often mentioned without adding "www." (or, indeed, ".com") to the domain.

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