

Sam, this is your countdown.

A Spanish plan built for Ana's family, timed to Christmas on December 24, 2026.

Your plan	30 days, starting Nov 24
Each day	10–15 minutes: read, listen, say it out loud three times
Their family	Mexico: Spanish and customs adapted to Mexican families



Scan to listen on your phone

Your listening page: <https://familiarready.com/p/sam-sample/>. Every phrase in this plan has a [Listen](#) link that plays it there. It's private: only people with this link can open it.

Your family cheat card

Who's who, and what to call them. Your listening page can save this as your phone's lock screen.

Who	Call them	Say hello
Rosa suegra · cooking	Doña Rosa	Mucho gusto, Doña Rosa. ¿Cómo está?
Luis suegro · soccer	Don Luis	Mucho gusto, Don Luis. ¿Cómo está?
Carmen abuela · telenovelas	Abuelita	Mucho gusto, Abuelita. ¿Cómo está?

How to use this

Do one day at a time. Read the Spanish out loud, tap Listen, then say it again without looking. Don't aim for perfect: aim for saying it warmly and slowly. If you miss a day, pick up where you left off.

Your daily lessons

Day 1

TUESDAY, NOV 24

Buenos días.

Good morning.

Until about noon.

[Listen >](#)

Buenas tardes.

Good afternoon.

From noon until dark.

[Listen >](#)

Buenas noches.

Good evening. / Good night.

Both a greeting and a goodbye after dark.

[Listen >](#)

Mucho gusto.

Nice to meet you.

The safest first phrase with anyone.

[Listen >](#)

Mucho gusto, Doña Rosa.

Nice to meet you, Doña Rosa.

[Listen >](#)

Day 2

WEDNESDAY, NOV 25

Encantado de conocerla.

Delighted to meet you. (to a woman)

Use conocerlo for a man, conocerlos for a group.

[Listen >](#)

Encantado de conocerlo.

Delighted to meet you. (to a man)

[Listen >](#)

Soy Sam, el novio de Ana.

I'm Sam, Ana's boyfriend.

[Listen >](#)

Gracias por recibirme en su casa.

Thank you for welcoming me into your home.

[Listen >](#)

Encantado de conocerlos a todos.

Delighted to meet you all.

[Listen >](#)

Day 3

THURSDAY, NOV 26

¿Cómo está, Doña Rosa?

How are you, Doña Rosa?

[Listen >](#)

¿Cómo ha estado?

How have you been?

For the second visit onward.

[Listen >](#)

Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y usted?

Very well, thank you. And you?

[Listen >](#)

Ana me ha hablado mucho de ustedes.

Ana has told me so much about you all.

[Listen >](#)

Estoy aprendiendo español para poder hablar con ustedes.

I'm learning Spanish so I can talk with you all.

One of the highest-impact sentences in the whole plan.

[Listen >](#)

Day 4

FRIDAY, NOV 27

Perdón por mi español. Apenas estoy empezando.

Sorry about my Spanish. I'm just getting started.

[Listen >](#)

Qué gusto verla.

So nice to see you. (to a woman)

verlo for a man, verlos for a group.

[Listen >](#)

¡Feliz Navidad!

Merry Christmas!

[Listen >](#)

¡Felices fiestas!

Happy holidays!

[Listen >](#)

¡Feliz cumpleaños, Doña Rosa!

Happy birthday, Doña Rosa!

[Listen >](#)

Day 5

SATURDAY, NOV 28

Soy de Chicago.

I'm from Chicago.

[Listen >](#)

Trabajo en una escuela.

I work in a school.

[Listen >](#)

Tengo muchas ganas de conocer a toda la familia.

I'm really looking forward to meeting the whole family.

[Listen >](#)

Su casa es muy bonita.

Your home is lovely.

[Listen >](#)

Le traje un pequeño regalo.

I brought you a small gift.

[Listen >](#)

Day 6

SUNDAY, NOV 29

Espero que le guste.

I hope you like it.

[Listen >](#)

Es un gusto estar aquí con ustedes.

It's a pleasure to be here with you all.

[Listen >](#)

¡Qué rico huele!

It smells so good!

[Listen >](#)

Todo está delicioso.

Everything is delicious.

[Listen >](#)

Doña Rosa, ¡su pozole está delicioso!

Doña Rosa, your pozole is delicious!

[Listen >](#)

Day 7

MONDAY, NOV 30

¿Usted lo preparó?

Did you make it?

Follow-up to a compliment. The object pronoun matches the dish: lo / la / los / las.

[Listen >](#)

¿Me puede enseñar a prepararlo?

Could you teach me how to make it?

[Listen >](#)

¿Me puede pasar la sal, por favor?

Could you pass me the salt, please?

[Listen >](#)

¿Me puede servir un poquito más, por favor?

Could you serve me a little more, please?

[Listen >](#)

Sí, gracias. Un poquito.

Yes, thank you. Just a little.

[Listen >](#)

Day 8

TUESDAY, DEC 01

Estaba delicioso, pero ya estoy lleno.

It was delicious, but I'm full.

Always compliment before declining seconds.

[Listen >](#)

¡Provecho!

Enjoy your meal!

Said when others are eating, or when leaving the table. Very common in Mexico.

[Listen >](#)

¿Qué es esto? Se ve muy rico.

What is this? It looks delicious.

A safe way to ask about an unfamiliar dish.

[Listen >](#)

Nunca había probado esto. Me encanta.

I've never tried this before. I love it.

[Listen >](#)

¿Le ayudo con algo?

Can I help you with anything?

Offering to help is one of the fastest ways to win a parent over.

[Listen >](#)

Day 9

WEDNESDAY, DEC 02

Déjeme ayudarle a recoger la mesa.

Let me help you clear the table.

[Listen >](#)

¿Quiere que lave los platos?

Would you like me to wash the dishes?

[Listen >](#)

¡Salud!

Cheers!

[Listen >](#)

Con permiso.

Excuse me.

Said when leaving the table or passing in front of someone.

[Listen >](#)

No como carne, pero todo lo demás me encanta.

I don't eat meat, but I love everything else.

[Listen >](#)

Day 10

THURSDAY, DEC 03

Soy de Chicago.

I'm from Chicago.

[Listen >](#)

Trabajo en una escuela.

I work in a school.

[Listen >](#)

Nos conocimos en el trabajo.

We met at work.

[Listen >](#)

Nos conocimos por una amiga.

We met through a friend.

[Listen >](#)

Nos conocimos en una aplicación.

We met on an app.

[Listen >](#)

Day 11

FRIDAY, DEC 04

¿De dónde eres?

Where are you from?

[Listen >](#)**¿A qué te dedicas?**

What do you do for a living?

[Listen >](#)**¿Cómo se conocieron?**

How did you two meet?

[Listen >](#)**Llevamos dos años juntos.**

We've been together two years.

[Listen >](#)**Un poquito. Estoy aprendiendo.**

A little. I'm learning.

[Listen >](#)

Day 12

SATURDAY, DEC 05

¡Me encanta! Todo está muy rico.

I love it! Everything is delicious.

[Listen >](#)**¿Cuánto tiempo llevan juntos?**

How long have you been together?

[Listen >](#)**¿Hablas español?**

Do you speak Spanish?

[Listen >](#)**¿Te gusta la comida?**

Do you like the food?

[Listen >](#)

Sí, es mi primera vez. Me gusta mucho.

Yes, it's my first time. I like it a lot.

[Listen >](#)

Day 13

SUNDAY, DEC 06

Muy bien, gracias. Les mandan saludos.

Very well, thank you. They send their regards.

[Listen >](#)

Tengo un hermano y una hermana.

I have one brother and one sister.

[Listen >](#)

¿Es tu primera vez aquí?

Is this your first time here?

[Listen >](#)

¿Cómo está tu familia?

How is your family?

[Listen >](#)

¿Tienes hermanos?

Do you have siblings?

[Listen >](#)

Day 14

MONDAY, DEC 07

Ojalá que pronto.

Hopefully soon.

[Listen >](#)

Eso se lo pregunta a Ana.

You'd have to ask Ana about that.

A light, friendly dodge for the wedding question.

[Listen >](#)

¿Cuándo vuelven?

When are you two coming back?

[Listen >](#)

¿Y cuándo es la boda?

So when's the wedding?

Prepare the learner: this one comes up often, usually as a joke.

[Listen >](#)

¿Te gusta México?

Do you like Mexico?

[Listen >](#)

Day 15

TUESDAY, DEC 08

Sí, gracias. Está todo buenísimo.

Yes, thank you. Everything is wonderful.

[Listen >](#)

Todavía no, pero ya tengo hambre.

Not yet, but I'm hungry.

[Listen >](#)

Me gusta mucho, sobre todo la comida y la gente.

I like it a lot, especially the food and the people.

[Listen >](#)

¿Quieres más?

Do you want more?

[Listen >](#)

¿Ya comiste?

Have you eaten?

Often the very first thing a grandmother says.

[Listen >](#)

Day 16

WEDNESDAY, DEC 09

Ana me contó que a usted le gusta cocinar.

Ana told me you like cooking.

[Listen >](#)

¿Hace cuánto vive aquí?

How long have you lived here?

[Listen >](#)

¿Cómo era Ana de niño?

What was Ana like as a child?

de niña if the partner is a woman. Families love this question.

[Listen >](#)

Qué bonita familia tienen.

What a lovely family you have.

[Listen >](#)

Me siento muy bienvenido aquí.

I feel very welcome here.

[Listen >](#)

Day 17

THURSDAY, DEC 10

¿Me puede contar una historia de Ana?

Could you tell me a story about Ana?

[Listen >](#)

¿Cómo se llama esta canción?

What's this song called?

[Listen >](#)

No sé bailar, pero lo intento.

I can't dance, but I'll try.

[Listen >](#)

¿Qué bonita casa!

What a lovely home!

[Listen >](#)

Me gustaría volver pronto.

I'd like to come back soon.

[Listen >](#)

Day 18

FRIDAY, DEC 11

¿Me lo puede repetir, por favor?

Could you repeat that, please?

[Listen >](#)

Más despacio, por favor.

Slower, please.

[Listen >](#)

Todavía estoy aprendiendo español.

I'm still learning Spanish.

[Listen >](#)

Perdón, no entendí.

Sorry, I didn't understand.

[Listen >](#)

¿Cómo se dice ... en español?

How do you say ... in Spanish?

[Listen >](#)

Day 19

SATURDAY, DEC 12

¿Qué significa ...?

What does ... mean?

[Listen >](#)

¿Me lo puede escribir?

Could you write it down for me?

[Listen >](#)

Entiendo un poquito.

I understand a little.

[Listen >](#)

¿Lo dije bien?

Did I say it right?

[Listen >](#)

Un momento, déjeme pensar.

One moment, let me think.

[Listen >](#)

Day 20

SUNDAY, DEC 13

¿Mande?

Pardon? / Sorry, what was that?

Mexico only. Elsewhere use ¿Perdón?

[Listen >](#)

¿Perdón?

Pardon?

[Listen >](#)

Muchas gracias por todo.

Thank you so much for everything.

[Listen >](#)

Fue un placer conocerlos.

It was a pleasure to meet you all.

[Listen >](#)

Gracias por todo, Doña Rosa.

Thank you for everything, Doña Rosa.

[Listen >](#)

Day 21

MONDAY, DEC 14

Cuídese mucho.

Take good care.

Cuídense for a group.

[Listen >](#)

Nos vemos pronto.

See you soon.

[Listen >](#)

Que descansen.

Have a good rest.

[Listen >](#)

Ya me tengo que ir, pero volveré pronto.

I have to go now, but I'll be back soon.

[Listen >](#)

Salúdeme a la familia.

Say hello to the family for me.

[Listen >](#)

Day 22

TUESDAY, DEC 15

La próxima vez cocino yo.

Next time I'll cook.

[Listen >](#)

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Happy New Year!

[Listen >](#)

¿Me escucha bien?

Can you hear me okay?

[Listen >](#)

Se cortó un poquito. ¿Me lo repite?

You cut out a bit. Could you repeat that?

[Listen >](#)

Qué gusto verlos por aquí.

So nice to see you all on here.

[Listen >](#)

Day 23

WEDNESDAY, DEC 16

Espero conocerlos en persona pronto.

I hope to meet you in person soon.

[Listen >](#)

Le paso a Ana.

I'll pass you to Ana.

[Listen >](#)

Gracias por la llamada. Cuídense.

Thanks for the call. Take care.

[Listen >](#)

Quiero decir algo, aunque mi español no sea perfecto.

I'd like to say something, even though my Spanish isn't perfect.

Opening line. Buys goodwill immediately.

[Listen >](#)

Gracias por recibirme en su casa y en su familia.

Thank you for welcoming me into your home and your family.

[Listen >](#)

Day 24

THURSDAY, DEC 17

Gracias por recibirme como parte de la familia.

Thank you for welcoming me as part of the family.

[Listen >](#)

Amo a Ana con todo mi corazón.

I love Ana with all my heart.

[Listen >](#)

Ahora entiendo de dónde viene todo lo bueno de Ana.

Now I understand where everything good about Ana comes from.

A reliable crowd-pleaser.

[Listen >](#)

Estoy aprendiendo español por ustedes, poco a poco.

I'm learning Spanish for you all, little by little.

[Listen >](#)

Perdón por los errores. Lo importante es que lo intento.

Sorry for the mistakes. What matters is that I'm trying.

[Listen >](#)

Day 25

FRIDAY, DEC 18

Doña Rosa, gracias por su comida y por su cariño.

Doña Rosa, thank you for your cooking and your warmth.

[Listen >](#)

Este año tengo mucho que agradecer.

This year I have so much to be thankful for.

[Listen >](#)

Por la familia. ¡Salud!

To family. Cheers!

Closing line.

[Listen >](#)

Por muchas navidades más juntos. ¡Salud!

To many more Christmases together. Cheers!

[Listen >](#)

Los quiero mucho a todos.

I love you all very much.

Only for a family the learner already knows well.

[Listen >](#)

Practice conversations

Read both sides out loud. Then cover the page and answer from memory. These are the moments that actually happen.

At the door

You arrive. Doña Rosa opens the door.

Them

¡Bienvenido! Pásale, pásale.

Welcome! Come in, come in.

Muchas gracias, Doña Rosa. Mucho gusto.

Thank you so much, Doña Rosa. Nice to meet you.

Them

El gusto es mío. ¿Cómo estuvo el viaje?

The pleasure is mine. How was the trip?

Muy bien, gracias. Estoy feliz de estar aquí.

Very good, thank you. I'm happy to be here.

Them

¿Tienes hambre? Ya casi está la comida.

Are you hungry? The food is almost ready.

Sí, ya huele delicioso. Le traje un pequeño regalo.

Yes, it already smells delicious. I brought you a small gift.

[Listen >](#)

How did you two meet?

Everyone is sitting down. The question always comes.

Them

¿Y cómo se conocieron ustedes?

So how did you two meet?

Nos conocimos en el trabajo, hace dos años.

We met at work, two years ago.

Them

¡Qué bonito! ¿Y hace cuánto tiempo?

How lovely! And how long ago?

Llevamos dos años juntos.

We've been together two years.

Them

Se ve que se quieren mucho.

You can tell you care about each other a lot.

Sí, mucho. Ana es muy especial para mí.

Yes, very much. Ana is very special to me.

[Listen >](#)

At the table

The food arrives. This is your moment.

Them

Sírvete, no te quedes con hambre.

Help yourself, don't go hungry.

Gracias. ¡Qué rico huele!

Thank you. It smells so good!

Them

¿Te gustó la comida?

Did you like the food?

Doña Rosa, ¡su pozole está delicioso!

Doña Rosa, your pozole is delicious!

Them

¿Quieres más?

Do you want more?

Estaba delicioso, pero ya estoy lleno. Muchas gracias.

It was delicious, but I'm full. Thank you so much.

[Listen >](#)

When you get lost

Someone speaks fast and you catch nothing. This is normal.

Them

Oye, y entonces cuando fuimos al pueblo el año pasado...

Hey, and so when we went to the town last year...

Perdón, ¿me lo puede repetir más despacio?

Sorry, could you repeat that more slowly?

Them

Claro. ¿Ya conoces el pueblo de la familia?

Of course. Do you know the family's town yet?

Todavía no. Todavía estoy aprendiendo español.

Not yet. I'm still learning Spanish.

Them

¡Pero lo hablas muy bien!

But you speak it very well!

Gracias, es muy amable. Estoy practicando para ustedes.

Thank you, that's very kind. I'm practicing for you all.

[Listen >](#)

Helping out

The meal is over and plates are being cleared.

Doña Rosa, ¿le ayudo con algo?

Doña Rosa, can I help you with anything?

Them

No, mi amor, tú eres el invitado.

No, dear, you're the guest.

Déjeme ayudarlo, por favor. Es un gusto.

Please let me help. It's a pleasure.

Them

Ay, qué lindo. Bueno, pásame esos platos.

Oh, how sweet. All right, pass me those plates.

¿Me puede enseñar a prepararlo algún día?

Could you teach me to make it someday?

Them

¡Claro que sí! Cuando quieras.

Of course! Whenever you like.

[Listen >](#)

Saying goodbye

Time to leave. Say goodbye to each person.

Ya nos tenemos que ir. Muchas gracias por todo.

We have to go now. Thank you so much for everything.

Them

¿Tan pronto? Quédense un ratito más.

So soon? Stay a little longer.

Me encantaría, pero ya es tarde. Fue un placer conocerlos.

I'd love to, but it's late. It was a pleasure to meet you all.

Them

Aquí tienes tu casa. Vuelve cuando quieras.

This is your home too. Come back whenever you like.



**Gracias, Doña Rosa. Nos vemos pronto.
Cúidense mucho.**

Thank you, Doña Rosa. See you soon. Take good care.

[Listen >](#)

Culture guide: Mexico

What to expect, so nothing catches you off guard.

Greetings, and why they take a while

- Greet every person in the room individually when you arrive, and again when you leave. A group wave reads as cold.
- Women usually greet with one light kiss on the right cheek, with women and with men. Men usually shake hands, often with a hug and a pat on the back once they know you.
- Follow your partner's lead on the first greeting. Copying what they do is always safe.
- Expect goodbyes to take twenty minutes. Nobody leaves quickly, and that slowness is part of the warmth.

Usted, tú, and names

- Use usted with your partner's parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. It is never rude, and it signals respect before you've said anything else.
- Use tú with their siblings and cousins your own age.
- Don and Doña before a first name (Don Luis, Doña Rosa) is respectful and warm at the same time. It's a great default for the parents.
- Don't be surprised if they use tú with you while you use usted with them. That's normal and not a signal to switch.
- They may call you mijo or mija, literally 'my son' or 'my daughter'. It's a sign of affection; take it as a win.

Arriving

- Bring something: a dessert, a bottle of wine, flowers for the host, or something from your home city.
- For a house party, arriving 15 to 30 minutes after the stated time is normal. For a restaurant or a mass, be on time.
- Compliment the house early. 'Qué bonita casa' costs nothing and lands well.
- Take off your coat and settle in. Looking like you might leave soon reads as distance.

At the table

- Try everything, even a small amount. Refusing a dish outright can feel like refusing the person.
- Say 'provecho' when you pass someone eating, or when you leave the table.
- You will be offered seconds. Compliment first, then decline: 'Estaba delicioso, pero ya estoy lleno.'

- Sobremesa is the long conversation after the meal, still sitting at the table. It's the heart of the evening, so don't stand up to leave when the plates are cleared.
- Offering to help clear or wash up is noticed and appreciated, even if they refuse.

Conversation

- Safe and welcome: food, your family back home, how you met, your work, soccer, how much you like their city.
- Expect teasing (albur is Mexican wordplay, often cheeky). Laughing at yourself wins the room.
- Many families say grace before eating. Follow along quietly, even if you don't share the faith.
- Avoid opening with immigration, cartels, or politics. If they raise it, listen more than you speak.
- Asking what your partner was like as a child unlocks stories, photos, and instant affection.

Christmas with a Mexican family

- Nochebuena, December 24, is the main event. Dinner is late, often near midnight, and everyone hugs at twelve saying '¡Feliz Navidad!'
- Some families go to Misa de Gallo, the midnight mass, before or after eating.
- December 25 is quieter, with the recalentado: reheated leftovers, which many people prefer to the dinner itself.
- Las Posadas run December 16 to 24: songs, candles, a piñata, and hot ponche.
- Día de Reyes, January 6, brings the rosca de reyes. Whoever finds the little figurine hosts tamales on February 2.
- Typical dishes: tamales, pozole, bacalao, romeritos, roast pork leg, ponche navideño, buñuelos.

Dates worth remembering

- Mother's Day is May 10, not the second Sunday. A message in Spanish that day means a great deal.
- Saint's days and birthdays are often celebrated with Las Mañanitas, sung to the person in the morning.
- September 15 to 16 is Independence Day, with the grito at 11pm on the 15th.

Your toast

On the last day, you'll say this to Ana's family. Build it from the lines below, or use the version we wrote for you. Practice it ten times, slowly.

Gracias por recibirme como parte de la familia. Ahora entiendo de dónde viene todo lo bueno de Ana. ¡Feliz Navidad a todos! ¡Salud!

Thank you for welcoming me as part of the family. Now I understand where everything good about Ana comes from. Merry Christmas, everyone! Cheers!

[Listen >](#)

Quiero decir algo, aunque mi español no sea perfecto.

I'd like to say something, even though my Spanish isn't perfect.

Opening line. Buys goodwill immediately.

[Listen >](#)

Gracias por recibirme en su casa y en su familia.

Thank you for welcoming me into your home and your family.

[Listen >](#)

Gracias por recibirme como parte de la familia.

Thank you for welcoming me as part of the family.

[Listen >](#)

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To family. Cheers!

Closing line.

[Listen >](#)

Por muchas navidades más juntos. ¡Salud!

To many more Christmases together. Cheers!

[Listen >](#)

Los quiero mucho a todos.

I love you all very much.

Only for a family the learner already knows well.

[Listen >](#)

Your family group-chat pack

Ready-to-send messages for the family WhatsApp. Copy them from your listening page, or type them from here. A short message in Spanish on the right day means a lot.

Christmas

¡Feliz Navidad, familia! Gracias por recibirme con tanto cariño. Les mando un abrazo a todos.

Merry Christmas, family! Thank you for welcoming me with so much love. Sending everyone a hug.

New Year

¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos! Les deseo un año lleno de salud y alegría.

Happy New Year, everyone! I wish you a year full of health and joy.

Her birthday

¡Feliz cumpleaños, Doña Rosa! Que pase un día muy bonito. Un abrazo grande.

Happy birthday, Doña Rosa! I hope you have a lovely day. A big hug.

After a family dinner

Doña Rosa, muchas gracias por la comida de hoy. ¡Todo estuvo delicioso!

Doña Rosa, thank you so much for today's meal. Everything was delicious!

Good morning in the group

¡Buenos días, familia! Que tengan un bonito día.

Good morning, family! Have a lovely day.

Mother's Day

¡Feliz Día de las Madres, Doña Rosa! Gracias por todo su cariño.

Happy Mother's Day, Doña Rosa! Thank you for all your love.

Mexico celebrates on May 10. Colombia and Puerto Rico celebrate in May too, on a Sunday.

Someone is sick

Que se mejore pronto, Doña Rosa. Aquí estamos para lo que necesite.

Get well soon, Doña Rosa. We're here for anything you need.

You got home after a visit

Ya llegamos bien a casa. ¡Gracias por todo!

We got home safely. Thank you for everything!

Good news in the family

¡Muchas felicidades! Qué gusto me da.

Congratulations! I'm so happy for you.

Someone shares a photo

¡Qué bonita foto! Se ven muy bien todos.

What a lovely photo! Everyone looks great.

You miss them

Los extrañamos mucho. ¡Ojalá nos veamos pronto!

We miss you all a lot. Hopefully we'll see each other soon!

After a gift

¡Muchas gracias por el regalo! Me encantó.

Thank you so much for the gift! I loved it.

A voice note for a grandparent

Abuelita, le mando un abrazo muy fuerte. Estoy aprendiendo español para poder hablar con usted.

Abuelita, I'm sending you a big hug. I'm learning Spanish so I can talk with you.

A loss in the family

Lo siento mucho. Los acompaño en su dolor, y aquí estoy para lo que necesiten.

I'm so sorry. I'm with you in your grief, and I'm here for anything you need.

Keep it short and sincere. Your partner can tell you whether a call or a visit is expected.

For Ana: how to help Sam shine

Sam has been practicing Spanish for your family. A few small things from you make a huge difference on the day.

Before the day

- Double-check the cheat card on page 1: names, and what Sam should call each person.
- Tell your family ahead of time: "Sam has been learning Spanish for you." Everyone slows down and cheers.
- Practice the three questions your family always asks, with you playing your mom.
- Listen to the toast once. Say it's perfect.

At the table

- Let Sam go first. Count to five before you translate anything.
- If they're stuck, whisper the first word, not the whole sentence.
- Agree on a signal (a touch on the arm) that means "please jump in now".
- Laugh with them, never at them, and don't correct them in front of everyone.

Afterwards

- Tell them one moment that really landed with your family.
- Keep using the phrases at home: ask "¿Qué quieres cenar?" once in a while.

After the big day

Tell us what they said. Reply to the email your plan came in, or send a voice note, with anything you didn't catch. We'll translate it for you.

And tell us how it went. We read every one, and it's the best part of our week.

Next occasion? Your Family Profile is saved. A new countdown for a birthday, Mother's Day, a wedding or a family trip is \$19: familiaready.com/next.