



Learn English  
for free.

# Stay in School

## Study Guide



SEASON 1

## STUDY GUIDE CONTENTS

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**Watch • Read • Learn**

[www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC)

# Stay in School

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**Diego just came here from Mexico.  
School in New York is difficult for him.  
And his family needs money.**



**Get a job? Stay in school?  
What will Diego do?**

## Welcome Diego

Diego arrives in New York City.  
He will live with Uncle Juan, Aunt Carmen and his cousin, Lupe.



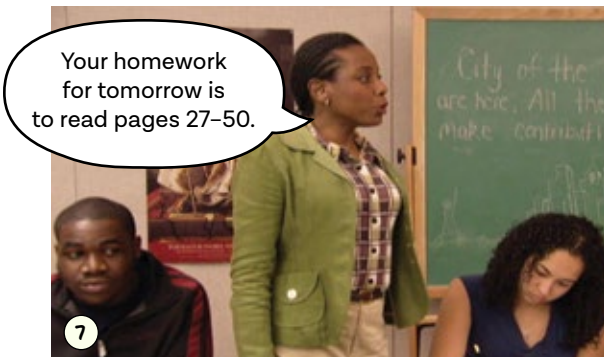
**nephew** = son of a sister or brother

# Problems at School

Diego goes to high school. He doesn't know anyone.



He doesn't understand the teachers. He can't read the books.



# Problems at Home

Juan and Carmen don't have enough money to pay the rent. Diego hears them talking.



They don't know Diego is listening.



Juan and Carmen are worried about paying the rent.  
Diego wants to help.



**salary** = the money you get from working  
**overtime** = extra work for extra money

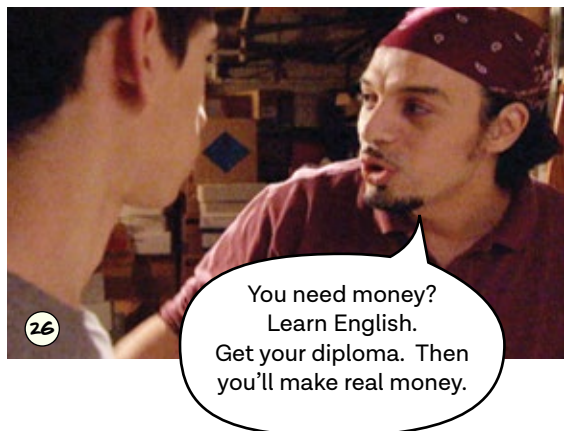
# Diego Drops Out

Diego stops going to school. He gets a job.



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Diego's coworker gives him advice.



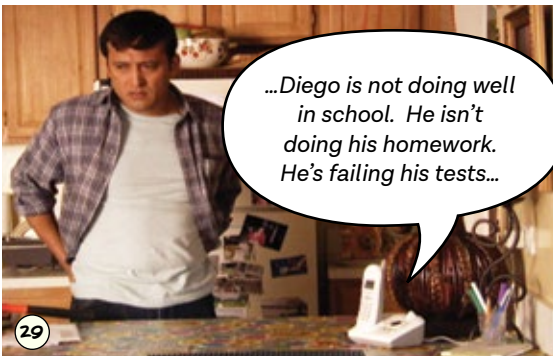


# The Message

Juan comes home from work. He listens to a message from Diego's teacher.



The news is not good.



Juan is very surprised.



Juan tells Carmen about the teacher's message.  
Carmen is shocked.



What's going on?



There was a message from Diego's English teacher. She said he's failing...



...And he hasn't been in class for a whole week.



Diego? Our Diego?! I don't understand.

Juan is upset.



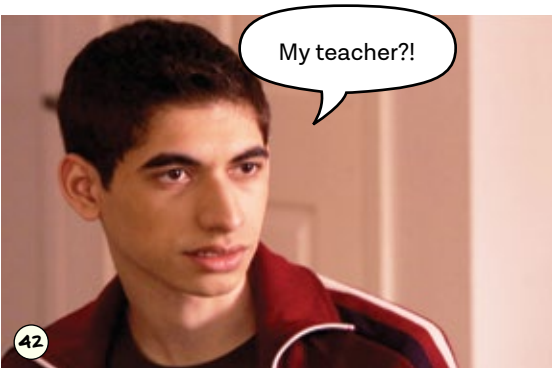
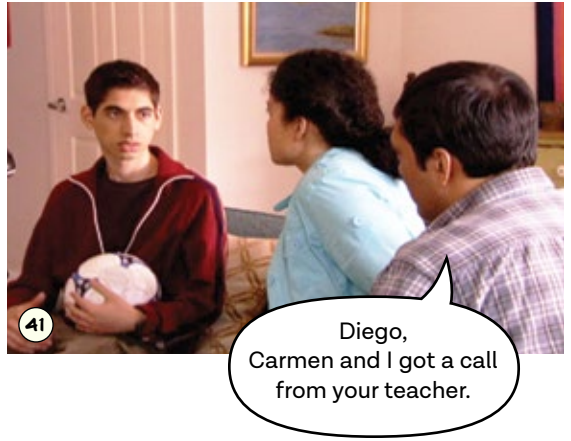
When Diego gets home tonight...



Juan, calm down. When he gets home, we'll ask him, and we'll hear what he has to say.

# Diego Comes Home

Juan and Carmen talk with Diego.



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Diego explains his problems at school.



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Carmen and Juan encourage Diego.



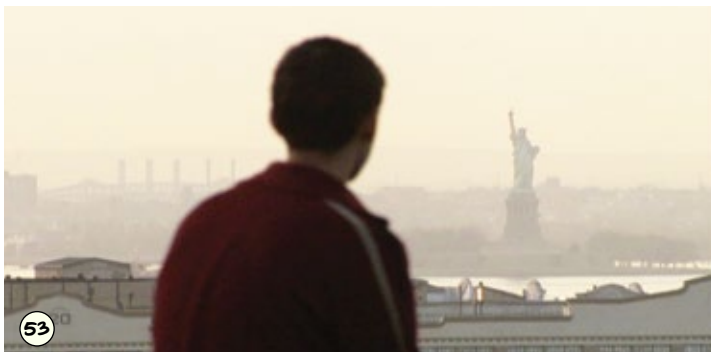
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Diego doesn't know what to do.



# Diego's Decision

Diego goes for a walk.



---

He makes a decision.



Uncle Juan and Aunt Carmen,  
I've decided  
I want to stay in school.

---

Carmen and Juan are proud of Diego.



Okay, Diego,  
we'll do this together.

# Working Together To Stay in School

Juan makes an appointment with Diego's teacher.



---

Next, Juan and Diego meet with the guidance counselor.



---

Diego gets extra help.



**Watch the show to see what happens.**

# Who We Are

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

aunt • cousin • coworker • English teacher • ~~high school student~~ • uncle



1. My name is Diego. I just came to New York from Mexico. I am a high school student. I can't understand my teachers, and I can't do the homework. Also, I'm worried about Uncle Juan and Aunt Carmen. They need money to pay the rent.

2. I'm Juan. I'm Diego's \_\_\_\_\_. It's great to have my nephew here in New York! I know he's having trouble in high school. It was difficult for me, too. Carmen and I will work together with Diego to find help.



3. My name is Carmen. I am Diego's \_\_\_\_\_. I am so happy to have him join our family. I had trouble with English, too. Diego is a wonderful nephew, and I want to help him.

4. My name is Lupe. Diego is my \_\_\_\_\_. I'm excited that he is here! We play soccer together.



5. I'm Diego's \_\_\_\_\_. Diego is having trouble in my class, and I want to help him. There are special programs and classes for people learning English.

6. I'm Diego's \_\_\_\_\_. Diego should stay in school and graduate. I dropped out, and now I need two jobs to pay my bills.



# Diego's Story

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

~~came~~ • couldn't do • decided • didn't tell  
had • hated • thought

- I came to New York a few months ago.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ school in New York would be like school in Mexico. But it wasn't.
- I couldn't understand the teacher. I \_\_\_\_\_ the homework.
- And I \_\_\_\_\_ problems at home. My family needed money.
- So, I \_\_\_\_\_ to drop out and get a job, but I \_\_\_\_\_ my aunt and uncle.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ that job! But at least I was making money.

called • decided • talked • wasn't

- My English teacher \_\_\_\_\_ my uncle. She told him I was not doing well in school.
- Uncle Juan and Aunt Carmen \_\_\_\_\_ to me, and I explained my problems. They listened carefully.
- It was a difficult decision, but I \_\_\_\_\_ to stay in school.
- My aunt and uncle called everyone! It \_\_\_\_\_ easy, but we did it!



# Where Is It?

Find these things in the story.

Write the page number(s). Follow the example.



1. blackboard \_\_\_\_\_ *page 2* \_\_\_\_\_
2. school hallway \_\_\_\_\_
3. textbook \_\_\_\_\_
4. soccer ball \_\_\_\_\_
5. answering machine \_\_\_\_\_
6. Statue of Liberty \_\_\_\_\_

# Talking about School

Find the meaning. Follow the example.



- |                       |         |   |
|-----------------------|---------|---|
| 1. classmate          | _____   | a short test or exam                    |
| 2. guidance counselor | _____   | a person at school who advises students |
| 3. do homework        | _____   | do well on a test                       |
| 4. a quiz             | _____   | finish school and get a diploma         |
| 5. pass a test        | _____   | not go to class                         |
| 6. graduate           | _____ 1 | someone in your class at school         |
| 7. miss class         | _____   | do very badly on a test                 |
| 8. fail a test        | _____   | stop going to school, quit school       |
| 9. drop out           | _____   | do schoolwork at home                   |

# Talking about School

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



appointment • doing well • ~~English~~ • failing  
homework • missed • need • number

**Teacher:**  
(answering machine)

Hello, Mr. Díaz. This is Diego's (1) English teacher.

I am calling to tell you that Diego is not (2) \_\_\_\_\_

in school. He isn't doing his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ . He's

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ his tests, and he has

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ class for a whole week. Please call

me to set up an (6) \_\_\_\_\_ .

If you (7) \_\_\_\_\_ an interpreter, please let me know.

My office (8) \_\_\_\_\_ is 718-555-5252.

# Talking about School

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



- choices
- college
- going on
- problem
- talk
- class
- don't know
- learn
- read
- ~~teacher~~

**Juan:** Diego, Carmen and I got a call from your (1) teacher.

**Diego:** My teacher?!

**Juan:** What's (2) \_\_\_\_\_, Diego?

**Diego:** Uncle Juan, please. I don't want to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ about school.

**Carmen:** You don't want to talk about school?! You haven't been in (4) \_\_\_\_\_! What's the matter with you?

**Juan:** Please, Diego. Tell us what's going on.

**Diego:** I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ what's going on! That's the (6) \_\_\_\_\_! In Mexico, it was different. Here, in English, everything is *blah, blah, blah*. I don't understand my teachers. I can't (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the books. With my English, I'll be in school forever.

**Carmen:** It's hard to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ English. It's hard to be in a new country. It was the same for us.

**Juan:** Get an education. You'll have more (9) \_\_\_\_\_. You can get the job you want. You can go to (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Diego:** College?

**Juan:** Yes, college. Why not?

# Talking about School



- ...he will not get a diploma.
- ...he will have more choices in life.
- ~~...he can go to college.~~
- ...they can help Diego.
- ...he can ask his teacher.
- ...he can ask for an interpreter.

**What will happen to Diego? Complete the sentences.  
Choose from the box. Follow the example.**

1. If Diego finishes high school, he can go to college.
2. If Diego goes to college, \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If Diego drops out, \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If Diego needs extra help, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If Diego's aunt and uncle get involved, \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If Uncle Juan can't understand the people at the school, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

# Good Question!



Put the words in order. Follow the example.

1. today • school • was • How • ?

*How was school today?*

---

2. going on • What • is • ?

---

3. What • matter • is • the • ?

---

4. school • you • aren't • Why • in • ?

---

5. high school • does • your daughter • What • go to • ?

---

6. to graduate • does • Diego • What • need to do • ?

---

# Good Question!

~~Where are you from?~~

What is your favorite subject?

What grade are you in?

How long have you been in New York?

What do you like to do in your free time?

Ask Diego about life in New York. Follow the example.

1. *Where are you from?*

**Diego:** I'm from Mexico.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Diego:** I came to New York a few months ago.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Diego:** I'm in eleventh grade.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Diego:** My favorite subject is math.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Diego:** I like to play soccer.

# What Can You Say?



## What can you say? Follow the example.

1. You are **Diego**. Tell your teacher you want to ask a question.

*I have a question.*

---

2. You are **Diego**. Tell your teacher you are confused.

---

3. You are **Juan**. Ask your landlord for one more week to pay the rent.

---

4. You are **Carmen**. Tell Juan not to get angry.

---

5. You are **Diego**. Juan is upset. Ask why.

---

6. You are **Juan**. Ask Diego's teacher for an appointment.

---

**Say the words out loud—like actors on TV!**



# What Can You Do?

Match the problem with the best solution. Follow the example.

## Problem

1. Your child is not doing well in school.
2. You need an interpreter to talk to your child's teacher.
3. You don't know the parent coordinator at your child's school.
4. You don't know other parents at your child's school.
5. Your child doesn't want to finish high school.

## Solution

- A**
- **Call 311.**  
Ask: *Can I have the number of the parent coordinator at my child's school?*
  - **Visit the school or the school's website.**
- B**
- **Call the parent coordinator at your child's school.**  
Ask: *When does the Parent Association meet?*
- C**
- **Call the guidance counselor.**  
Say: *My child wants to drop out.*  
Ask: *Can you help me?*
  - **Read about special programs in the NYC Family Guide.**
- D**
- **Call your child's teacher.**  
Ask: *What can I do to help my child in school?*
  - **Make an appointment with the guidance counselor.**
  - **Ask other parents for suggestions.**
- E**
- **Call the parent coordinator at your child's school.**  
Ask: *Can I have an interpreter?*  
Say: *I speak \_\_\_\_\_.*

# Who Is Juan Calling?



# Who Is Carmen Calling?



Who are they calling? Follow the example.



1. I want to find a school for my nephew. Can I have a list of high schools in New York City?



2. My nephew is in your English class. I'd like to make an appointment to talk to you.



3. Can you tell me about special programs for my nephew?



4. I'm sorry the rent is late. We will have it next week.



5. What high school does your daughter go to? How did you find it?

landlord

another parent

311

guidance counselor

Diego's teacher



# Watch the Show

## Who says it?

Watch **Stay in School**. Listen carefully.

Find out who says these lines.

Who says it?

1. "I'm from the Dominican Republic." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Diego! How was your game? Did you win?" \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Come on! Eat, eat!" \_\_\_\_\_
4. "My family needed money. So, I decided to drop out and get a job." \_\_\_\_\_
5. "Did they find out the truth?" \_\_\_\_\_
6. "I want to make my mother proud." \_\_\_\_\_
7. "What high school does your daughter go to?" \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Every young person in New York City has a right to a free education. Classes are free, and extra help is free." \_\_\_\_\_



Carmen



Diego



Juan



Lupe



Lu



Omar

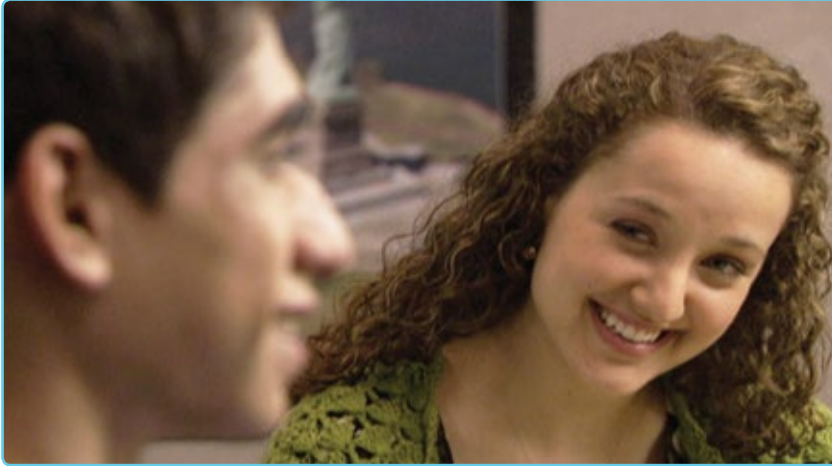


Mr. Shamma  
(the guidance counselor)

# Watch the Show

## What's going on?

What do you think is going on in these pictures?



Watch  
**We Speak NYC • Stay in School**  
to find out what is going on.

Go to [www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC)

# What You Can Do To Learn More English

- ✔ Get together with friends who are learning English, too. Watch **We Speak NYC** together. Do the exercises together.
- ✔ Read the story out loud with a friend—like actors on TV! It's a good way to learn.
- ✔ Go to your local public library. To find the nearest library, call 311 or go to [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org), [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org) or [www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org).
- ✔ If you have a high school diploma and want to improve your English and start college, go to [www.clip.cuny.edu](http://www.clip.cuny.edu) or [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu).
- ✔ Make a list of words and expressions you learned from **Stay in School**.

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Visit the **We Speak NYC** website.

- Read the Study Guides.
- Practice your English.
- Watch videos of all the episodes.
- Read about your favorite characters!

[www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC)

# What You Can Do To Help Your Child in School

## Teacher

Learn more about City schools. Go to: [www.nyc.gov/schools/ParentsFamilies](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/ParentsFamilies). To help your child with homework, visit: [www.homeworknyc.org](http://www.homeworknyc.org).

## Mr. Shamma

Ask for help from the guidance counselor. The counselor helps students and families solve problems in school.



## Diego

Ask about tutoring programs. Tutoring is extra help with difficult subjects in school.

## Carmen

Ask for help from your school's parent coordinator. Call 311 to get the phone number or visit your child's school.



## Juan

Talk to your child's teacher about getting extra help. Students can get free help before or after school, on weekends or online.



## Education Rights:

**Every young person in New York City has a right to a free education.**

- Classes are free and extra help is free.
- You have a right to school documents in 8 different languages.
- You have a right to an interpreter.
- You have a right to be in school until you're 21.
- If you are over 21, and you want to get a high school diploma, there are free educational programs for you.

**Call 311 for more information.**

# Dictionary: Translation of Key Words

English	Español	中文
1. choices	opciones	選擇
2. diploma	diploma	文憑
3. drop out	abandonar los estudios	輟學
4. extra help	ayuda adicional	額外幫助
5. graduate	graduarse	畢業
6. guidance counselor	consejero escolar	輔導員
7. homework	tarea	家庭作業
8. It's your right.	Es su derecho.	這是你們的權利
9. pass/fail	aprobar/reprobar	通過/沒通過
10. stay in school	seguir en la escuela	繼續上學



Go to [www.nyc.gov/We SpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC) to learn more.

**Русский**

**বাংলা**

**العربية**

возможности, выбор

পছন্দ

اختيارات

аттестат

ডিপ্লোমা

دبلومة

бросить школу

স্কুল ছেড়ে চলে যাওয়া

يترك المدرسة

дополнительная помощь

বাড়তি সাহায্য

مساعدة إضافية

окончить школу

উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া

يتخرج

методист

গাইডেন্স কাউন্সিলর

الموجه الإرشادي

домашняя работа

বাড়ির কাজ

واجب منزلي

Это ваше право!

এটা তোমার অধিকার

إنه حقك.

зачёт/незачёт

পাস/ফেল

إجتاز بنجاح/رسب

не бросать школу

স্কুলে থাকা

البقاء في المدرسة

# Dear Diego

Write a letter to Diego.

Ask him a question.

Give him advice.

Tell Diego **your** story!



*Dear Diego,*

*Sincerely yours,*

# Answers

## Page 12

1. high school student
2. uncle
3. aunt
4. cousin
5. English teacher
6. coworker

## Page 13

1. came
2. thought
3. couldn't do
4. had
5. decided, didn't tell
6. hated
7. called
8. talked
9. decided
10. wasn't

## Page 14

1. page 2
2. page 2
3. page 2
4. pages 1, 3, 4, 8, 10
5. pages 3, 4, 6
6. page 10

## Page 15

1. someone in your class at school
2. a person at school who advises students
3. do schoolwork at home
4. a short test or exam
5. do well on a test
6. finish school and get a diploma
7. not go to class
8. do very badly on a test
9. stop going to school, quit school

## Page 16

1. English
2. doing well
3. homework
4. failing
5. missed
6. appointment
7. need
8. number

## Page 17

1. teacher
2. going on
3. talk
4. class
5. don't know
6. problem
7. read
8. learn
9. choices
10. college

## Page 18

1. ...he can go to college.
2. ...he will have more choices in life.
3. ...he will not get a diploma.
4. ...he can ask his teacher.
5. ...they can help Diego.
6. ...he can ask for an interpreter.

## Page 19

1. How was school today?
2. What is going on?
3. What is the matter?
4. Why aren't you in school?
5. What high school does your daughter go to?
6. What does Diego need to do to graduate?

## Page 20

1. Where are you from?
2. How long have you been in New York?
3. What grade are you in?
4. What is your favorite subject?
5. What do you like to do in your free time?

## Page 21

1. I have a question.
2. I don't understand.
3. I know the rent is late. Can I pay you next week?
4. Calm down.
5. What's wrong?
6. I'd like to make an appointment to see you.

## Page 22

1. D
2. E
3. A
4. B
5. C

## Page 23

1. 311
2. Diego's teacher
3. guidance counselor
4. landlord
5. another parent

## Page 24: There are other correct answers.

School words: class, college, English, graduate, guidance, homework, questions, school, study, teacher

## Page 25: Watch the show for these answers.

1. Lu
2. Lupe
3. Juan
4. Diego
5. Omar
6. Diego
7. Carmen
8. Mr. Shamma (the guidance counselor)

**Watch  
Read  
Learn**



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