



Learn English  
for free.

# Welcome Parents

Study Guide



SEASON 1

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# Welcome Parents

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The parent-teacher conferences are next month...



But it's not easy to talk to the teachers in English.

What can *you* do  
to help your children in school?

### Carmen and Juan

Carmen reads a letter about the parent-teacher conferences.  
Juan is watching soccer on TV.



It's difficult for Carmen to talk to the teacher.  
Their daughter, Lupe, needs help in school.



Juan is not worried. He says the teacher will help Lupe.



### Fatima and Sayeed

Fatima's family gets the same school letter.  
Sayeed is watching the same soccer game.



Carmen and Fatima decide to get ready  
for the parent-teacher conferences.



Fatima tells Carmen about the parent coordinator.  
Carmen calls 311 to get the number.



# The Parent Coordinator

Carmen and Fatima go to the school together.



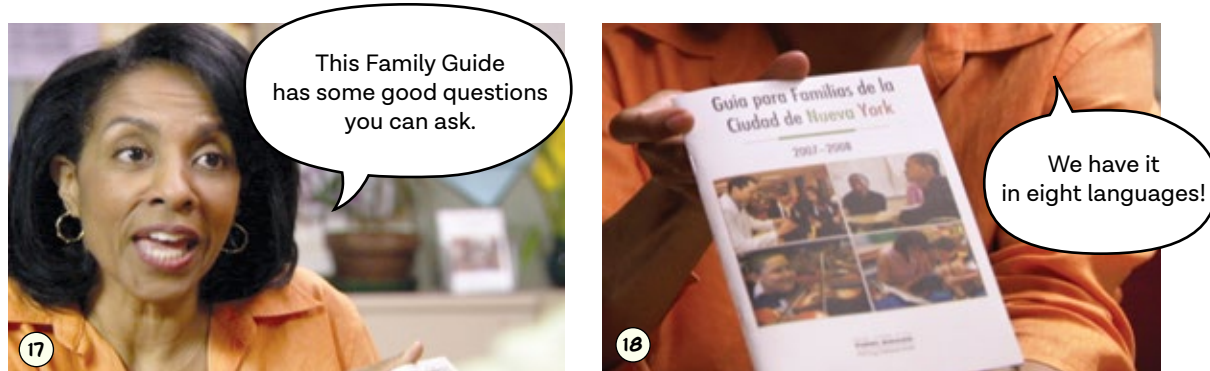
She says Carmen and Fatima are leaders!



They meet with the parent coordinator.  
They talk about the parent-teacher conferences.



The parent coordinator helps parents.



They decide to talk to other parents.



## Taking Action

Carmen and Fatima meet other parents in the park.



They talk about the parent-teacher conferences.



Pierre and Carmen have good ideas.



## Carmen and Juan at Home

Carmen comes home. She tells Juan about the meeting.



Carmen thinks Juan should get involved, too.



## Saturday in the Park

Juan and Sayeed practice soccer.  
The other parents practice asking questions.

Okay, everyone,  
we have good questions.  
Now we have to practice  
asking them out loud.  
Like actors on TV.

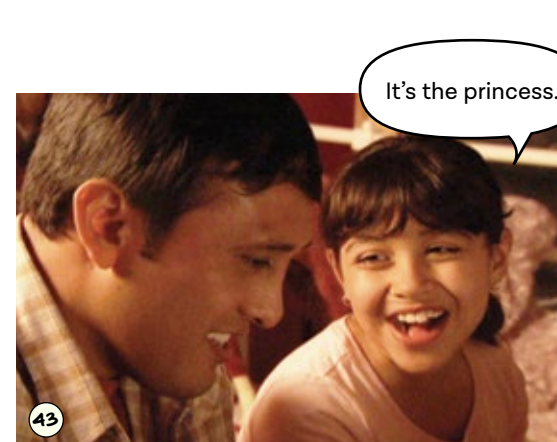


Juan and Sayeed get interested.



## That Night At Carmen and Juan's Apartment

Juan reads with Lupe.



# Conference Night

It's the big night. Is Juan coming? Of course he is!



# The Parent-Teacher Conferences

Everyone goes. Everyone asks good questions.



# Who We Are

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

~~Carmen~~ • Fatima • Juan • Lupe • Sayeed  
Lupe's teacher • parent coordinator • Pierre and Ming



1. I'm Carmen. The parent-teacher conferences are next month! Last year was a disaster. I couldn't understand the teacher. This year will be different. My friends and I are practicing our lines. Like actors on TV!

2. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Our daughter, Lupe, is a good student. But this year she's having trouble with reading. My wife wants me to get involved!



3. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I'm in second grade. My father calls me the "Princess of Sunset Park." I like it when he reads to me. Soccer is my favorite sport.

4. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I teach the students, and I also talk with their parents. If the parents get involved, the children do better in my class. That makes me happy.



5. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Carmen and I have a plan. We're meeting with other parents in the park to get ready for the parent-teacher conferences. We want our husbands to join us.

6. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I'm married to Fatima, and we have a son. I know it's important to get involved in my child's education, but sometimes I don't know what to say.



7. Our names are \_\_\_\_\_. We are parents, like Carmen and Fatima. We all want to help our children do well in school.



8. Hello, I'm the \_\_\_\_\_ at the school. I help parents with questions about school. Parents can ask for an interpreter. They can also get the NYC Family Guide in eight languages.





# What Happens?

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

calls • get involved • gives • is  
make an appointment • ~~receives~~ • says

1. Carmen receives a letter from her daughter's school.
2. The letter \_\_\_\_\_ the school is having the parent-teacher conferences again.
3. Carmen \_\_\_\_\_ concerned. Last year she couldn't understand anything the teacher said.
4. Fatima gets the letter, too. She \_\_\_\_\_ Carmen to talk about it.
5. Carmen and Fatima \_\_\_\_\_ to see the parent coordinator.
6. The parent coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Fatima and Carmen the NYC Family Guide.
7. The parent coordinator encourages Fatima and Carmen to \_\_\_\_\_ in the school.

asks • convinces • doesn't think • meet • practice

8. Carmen and Fatima \_\_\_\_\_ other parents in the park.
9. Together, they make a list of questions, and they \_\_\_\_\_ asking the questions out loud.
10. At first, Carmen's husband, Juan, \_\_\_\_\_ it is important to get involved.
11. But in the end, Carmen \_\_\_\_\_ Juan to get involved.
12. At the parent-teacher conference, Juan \_\_\_\_\_ Lupe's teacher many good questions. Carmen is very proud!

# Where Is It?

Find these things in the story.

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



1. letter from the school page 1
2. fire hydrant \_\_\_\_\_
3. NYC Family Guide \_\_\_\_\_
4. picnic table \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pierre's notebook \_\_\_\_\_
6. soccer ball \_\_\_\_\_
7. Juan's ties \_\_\_\_\_

# Talking about School

Find the meaning. Follow the example.



- |                              |                |  |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1. parent-teacher conference | _____          | tells about a child's progress in school               |
| 2. parent coordinator        | _____          | a competition  |
| 3. NYC Family Guide          | _____          | having problems  |
| 4. report card               | <u>1</u> _____ | a meeting between parents and teachers                 |
| 5. a contest                 | _____          | information for families in eight languages            |
| 6. nervous                   | _____          | a person who helps parents with questions about school |
| 7. having trouble            | _____          | anxious, worried, concerned                            |
| 8. get ready                 | _____          | prepare  |
| 9. get together              | _____          | meet with other people                                 |
| 10. get involved             | _____          | participate or take action                             |

# Talking about School

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



get involved • getting ready • getting together  
parent • school • ~~worried~~

- Juan:** Carmen, where were you? I was (1) worried.
- Carmen:** I met with the other parents. We are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for the parent-teacher conferences.
- Juan:** I keep telling you... Let the people at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ do their work. You are just a (4) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Carmen:** Exactly. And parents need to (5) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Juan, we are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ again on Saturday, and you should come.
- Juan:** Me?
- Carmen:** Yes, you!

# Talking about School

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



~~conferences~~ • decide • doesn't matter  
education • teacher

**Carmen:** Do you know what time it is? The (1) conferences are starting.

**Juan:** Carmen, take it easy.

**Carmen:** Are you coming or not?

**Juan:** I can't (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Carmen:** I'm leaving.

**Juan:** Wait! I can't decide. Which tie will the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ like?

**Carmen:** It (4) \_\_\_\_\_. You don't need to wear a tie. Let's go.

**Juan:** Carmen! This is important. This is our daughter's  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_.

# Talking about School



Last year, I couldn't understand my child's teacher.  
This year, I can!

You are **Carmen**. Talk about last year and this year.  
Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

1. ask the teacher questions

*Last year, I couldn't ask the teacher questions.*

*This year, I can!*

2. read the NYC Family Guide in English

*Last year,*

*This year,*

3. understand my child's report card

*Last year,*

*This year,*

4. help my daughter with her homework

*Last year,*

*This year,*

5. get involved at my child's school

*Last year,*

*This year,*



## Good Question!

Put the words in order.  
Follow the example.

1. give • the parent coordinator • you • me • Can • the number of • ?

*Can you give me the number of the parent coordinator?*

2. my son • give • any extra reading • there • Is • I • can • ?

3. my son • help • How • I • can • with his reading • ?

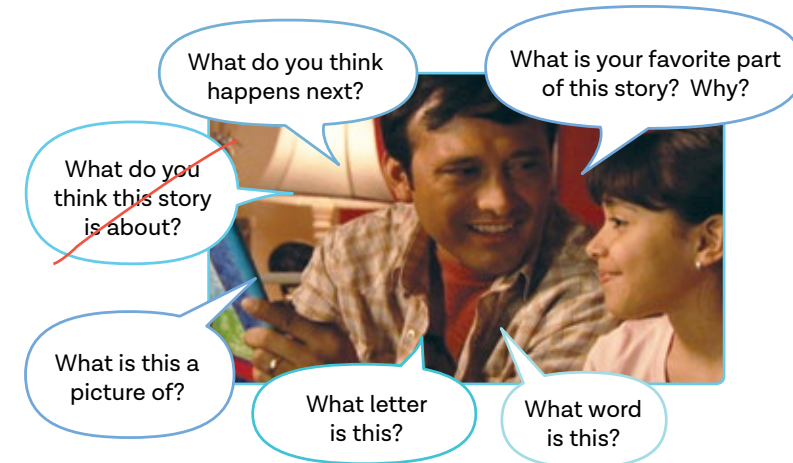
4. in Spanish • my daughter's • I • Can • report card • get • ?

5. his homework • my son • doing • every night • Is • ?

6. an interpreter • I • Can • have • ?

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

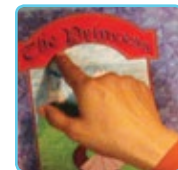
## Good Question!



You are **Juan**. You are reading a story with your daughter.  
What can you say? Follow the example.

1. You point to the cover of the book. You ask:

*What do you think this story is about?*



2. You point to a picture. You ask:

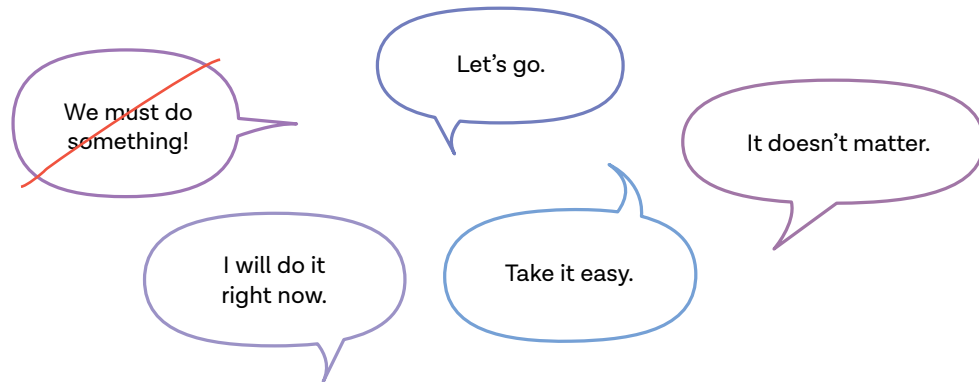
3. You point to a letter. You ask:

4. You point to a word. You ask:

5. You are in the middle of the story. You ask:

6. You finish the story. You ask:

# What Can You Say?



What can you say? Follow the example.

1. You are **Carmen**. Tell Fatima you want to take action.

*We must do something!*

2. You are **Carmen**. Tell Fatima you will call 311 immediately.

3. You are **Juan**. Tell Carmen to relax.

4. You are **Carmen**. Tell Juan it's not important which tie he wears.

5. You are **Carmen**. Tell Juan it's time to leave.

**You are an actor—say the words out loud.**

# What Can You Do?

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

## Problem

- You couldn't understand very much at the parent-teacher conference last year.
- You don't know the parent coordinator at your child's school.
- You are worried about your child's reading.
- You can't read a letter your child brought home from school.
- Your child is not doing well in 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.  
Ask: *Can I have an interpreter?*
  - Practice asking questions with other parents.
- C**
- Call the parent coordinator.  
Say: *I don't understand the letter.*  
Ask: *Can I have this letter in my language?*
- D**
- Talk to the parent coordinator and teacher.  
Ask: *What can I do to help my child? What more can the school do?*
  - Go to the parent-teacher conferences.
  - Ask other parents what they do.
- E**
- Speak with your child's teacher.  
Say: *I am worried about my child's reading.*  
Ask: *Is there any extra help for my child?*
  - Read to your child every night.

# Watch the Show

## Who says it?

Watch **Welcome Parents**. Listen carefully.  
Find out who says these lines.

Who says it?

1. "Sweet dreams." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Think of the questions to ask the teacher and say them out loud. You have to practice, just like soccer." \_\_\_\_\_
3. "If you need an interpreter, just ask for one." \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Sometimes your daughter's homework is late, and sometimes she doesn't answer all of the questions. And sometimes, it's a mess!" \_\_\_\_\_
5. "Repeat that, Ming, like a movie star!" \_\_\_\_\_
6. "That year, I fell in love with my teacher." \_\_\_\_\_
7. "And the princess said, 'I want to play soccer!'" \_\_\_\_\_



Carmen



Fatima



parent coordinator



Lupe



Pierre



Juan



Ming

# Watch the Show

## What's going on?

What do you think is going on in these pictures?



Watch  
**We Speak NYC • Welcome Parents**  
to find out what is going on.  
Go to [www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC)

# Tell the Story

Use these words to tell a friend about **Welcome Parents**.



Find 5 school words.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Find 5 names from the story.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Word picture: [www.wordle.net/](http://www.wordle.net/)

# 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 **Welcome Parents**.

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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 Prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Carmen**  
Write down what you want to say.

**Fatima**  
Get together with friends and practice asking questions.

**Pierre**  
Take your notebook with you.

**Juan**  
Don't forget your pen!

**Ming**  
Repeat back what you hear.

**Sayeed**  
Ask questions!

# What You Can Do To Get Involved in Your Child's Education

- **Read a story together** with your child every night. Visit the public library with your child.
- **Meet** your child's teachers and the school's parent coordinator. Call 311 to get the parent coordinator's telephone number.
- **Get** the NYC Family Guide from the parent coordinator.
- **Find out** what your child is learning in school. Go to: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics> and click on "Great Expectations Learning Guides."
- **See** your child's test scores. Visit: <https://mystudent.nyc/>. Ask the parent coordinator if you need help.
- **Learn** more about New York City schools. Visit: [www.nyc.gov/schools/ParentsFamilies](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/ParentsFamilies).
- **Visit** <http://schools.nyc.gov/StudentSupport/HomeworkResources/default.htm> to help your child with homework.
- **Find out** how fathers can get more involved at: [www.nyc.gov/nycdads](http://www.nyc.gov/nycdads).



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



## Dictionary: Translation of Key Words

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

English	Español	中文	Русский	বাংলা	العربية
1. get involved	participar	參與	принимать участие	সম্পৃক্ত হওয়া	شارك
2. get ready	prepararse	準備好	готовиться	তৈরি হওয়া	استعد
3. homework	tarea	家庭作業	домашняя работа	বাড়ির কাজ	واجب منزلي
4. interpreter	intérprete	翻譯員	переводчик	দোভাষী	مترجم
5. notebook	cuaderno	筆記本	тетрадь	নোটবুক	كراسة
6. parent coordinator	coordinador de padres	家長專員	координатор по работе с родителями	প্যারেন্ট কোঅর্ডিনেটর	منسق شؤون الآباء
7. parent-teacher conference	reunión de padres y maestros	家長教師會議	встреча родителей с учителями	পিতামাতা-শিক্ষক বৈঠক	اجتماع الوالد والمعلم
8. to practice	practicar	練習	практиковаться	অনুশীলন করা	ينمرن
9. principal	director	校長	директор	প্রিন্সিপ্যাল	مدير المدرسة
10. report card	boletín/reporte de calificaciones	成績報告卡	табель успеваемости	প্রতিবেদনপত্র	كشف الدرجات



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