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# My Name is Gabriela



Short story based on “The Seed for a Good Life”

We Speak NYC • Season 2

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# My Name is Gabriela



**My name is Gabriela.**

**This is my husband, César.**

**We are from Ecuador.**



**This is our daughter, Xio.**  
**Soon, we will have a second child.**  
**That's right! I am pregnant**  
**and we have a baby on the way.**



**Our baby is due in three months.**

**My body is changing.**

**Our lives are changing too.**

**Some of the changes are not so easy...**

**My husband lost his job.**



**He feels frustrated.**

**I encourage him.**



**“You have so much experience,” I say.**

**“You worked in a hardware store, in a restaurant.  
You’ve done electrical work and construction...”**



**I have a lot of experience too.**

**I worked in a grocery store.**

**I worked in a childcare center.**

**Now, I am working as a house cleaner.**

**I work hard, but the pay is not enough  
for our growing family.**





**We want careers.**

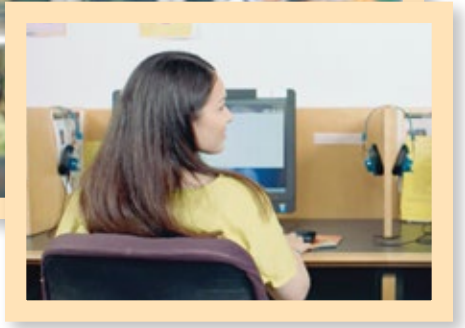
**We want jobs with benefits  
and good opportunities for the future.**



**Education is important for a career.**

**When I am not working, I go to English class  
at my local library.**

**I want to get a High School Equivalency (HSE)  
diploma too.**



**The library has many free services.**

**It has English classes, HSE classes,  
books and a computer lab.**

**It also has a career center.**



**I encourage César to come to the library.**

**One day, he meets me there,  
but he doesn't go inside.**

**"I'm exhausted," César says.**

**"Maybe some other time."**



**César has good news.**

**He got a part-time job at a restaurant.**

**He got another part-time job at a car audio shop.**

**They pay minimum wage.**

**He will also make paintings to sell.**

**But, he is exhausted.**



**One day, César surprises me.  
He asks me if I have a resume!  
I say, “We are going to learn about resumes  
in my class.”**



**César wants to join my class.**

**He says, “Education is the seed for a good life!”**

**Xio says, “Where did you learn that, *papi*?”**

**Good question, Xio!**





**César goes with me to the library.  
Nana Aidoo is a career counselor there.  
Nana teaches us about resumes.**





**A resume shows your work history.**

**On a resume, you write:**

- ***who* you worked for  
(the name of the company)**
- ***what* you did on the job**
- ***where* you worked**
- ***when* you worked**



**We practice writing resumes.**

**We work in pairs.**



**We really like the class.**

**I introduce César to another new student, Jian.**

**Jian is new to New York City.**

**César helps Jian.**



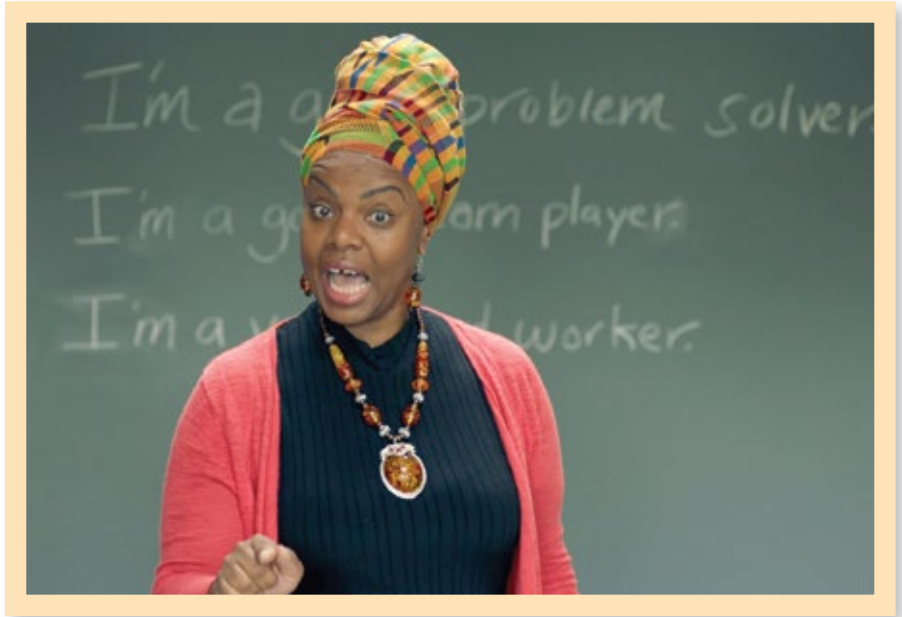
**In the next class, we learn about job interviews.**

**In a job interview, you introduce yourself.**

**You shake hands.**

**You make “eye contact.”**

**That means you look at the person.**



**In an interview, you talk about your work history.**

**You talk about your experience.**

**You give examples of your skills.**



**We are learning many things in class.**

**César asks Nana a good question.**

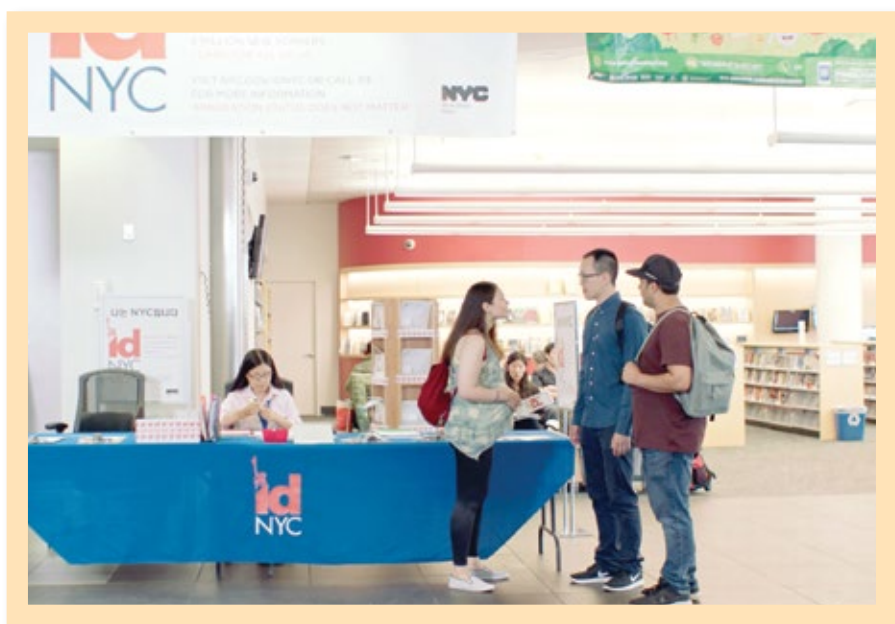
**“Where can we get help finding a good career?”  
he asks.**



**Nana tells us about Workforce1.**

**Workforce1 is a City service.**

**It has career training and career counseling.**



**After the class, we talk with Jian about IDNYC.**

**IDNYC has many benefits.**

**It is an ID card for all New Yorkers.**

**You can get one at the library.**





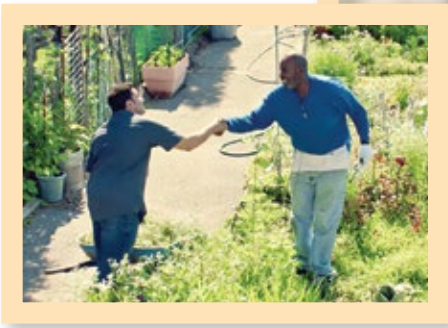
**Then, César sees a friend in the library.**

**His name is Simon.**

**I never met him before.**



**César says to Simon, “This is my wife.”**  
**Simon says, “Nice to meet you, Gabriela.”**  
**Simon knows my name!**  
**I am very surprised.**



**Simon explains:**

**“I met César in the community garden.  
He told me about you.”**

**Simon says, “We talked about many things.  
He told me he wants a career.”**



**Simon told César,  
“Education is the seed for a good life.  
Education is the seed for a career.”**



**I am proud of César.  
He is planting the seed  
for a good life for our family.  
So am I.**

# Words used in this story

---

- am, is, are (be)
- another
- audio shop, car audio shop
- benefits
- body
- can
- career
- career center
- career counselor
- changing (change)
- child
- childcare center
- City service
- classes
- come
- community garden
- computer lab
- daughter
- due (Our baby is due...)
- Ecuador
- education
- electrical equipment
- encourage
- English
- enough, not enough
- examples
- exhausted
- experience
- eye contact, make eye contact
- family
- feels (feel)
- finding (find)
- free, free services
- friend
- frustrated (*adj*)
- future
- get, get help
- growing, growing family
- hardware store
- helps (help)
- housecleaner
- husband
- ID card
- IDNYC
- in pairs
- introduce, introduce yourself
- job, job interview
- knows (know)
- learn
- library
- life, a good life
- lost (lose), lost his job
- maybe
- means (mean)
- met (meet)
- minimum wage
- months
- name
- New Yorkers
- news, good news

- 
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> on the way       | <input type="checkbox"/> second                   | <input type="checkbox"/> wants (want)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> opportunities    | <input type="checkbox"/> seed                     | <input type="checkbox"/> what          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paintings        | <input type="checkbox"/> sees (see)               | <input type="checkbox"/> when          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> part-time job    | <input type="checkbox"/> sell                     | <input type="checkbox"/> where         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pay (n)          | <input type="checkbox"/> shake hands              | <input type="checkbox"/> who           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> person           | <input type="checkbox"/> shows (show)             | <input type="checkbox"/> work history  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planting (plant) | <input type="checkbox"/> skills                   | <input type="checkbox"/> worked (work) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> practice         | <input type="checkbox"/> student                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pregnant         | <input type="checkbox"/> surprised ( <i>adj</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> write         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> proud, proud of  | <input type="checkbox"/> surprises (surprise)     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> question         | <input type="checkbox"/> talked (talk)            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> really           | <input type="checkbox"/> teaches (teach)          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> restaurant       | <input type="checkbox"/> time                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> resume           | <input type="checkbox"/> told (tell)              |  |

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