

Parenting in the United States

OBJECTIVES

In this episode you will:

- *Learn to use adjectives.*
 - *Learn to be a better parent.*
-

INTRODUCTION

 Video script

MARTA ' S HOUSE

Marta, 30's Latina is having a heated discussion with her teenage daughter, Viviana, 16-17. The discussion turns intense.

VIVIANNA:

Come on, Mom.

MARTA

You can't stay out that late! Your curfew is 10 O'clock!

VIVIANA

But it's Kim's birthday. Everyone is staying until Midnight.

MARTA

I said no.

VIVIANA

Why not, mom?

MARTA

Because I said so, and I'm your mother.

VIVIANA

Excuse me? Well, I'm going to Kim's party and I'm going to come home at midnight because I'm your daughter.

MARTA

Listen to me, Viviana de la Luz...

Just as the exchange is about to get red hot...

WIZARD

Freeze! *The scene freezes.*

WIZARD ROOM

(SNEEZES) Hi. Sorry I interrupted. Rosalinda and I stayed out late last night and I caught a nasty cold. Yes, I'm at my mother's house. She took care of me all night. This morning, she had to go to work. You know, it's difficult to be a good parent. It takes patience, love and dedication. In today's episode, you will learn how important it is for parents and children to communicate. You will also learn about adjectives.

Adjectives are words that describe things or people. For example, this is Marta. She is a parent. Right now, she is an angry parent. She is not a calm parent. Angry and calm are both adjectives. Easy, isn't it? This is going to be a good lesson. Hey. Good is also an adjective. But now, let's get back to the story. And action.

WIZARD

VOCABULARY

 Read and learn these words

Curfew	Hard-working
Caught	Discipline
Stuck	Permission
Dedication	Disrespect
Skip	Independent
Big deal	Own
Dating	Concern
Mistakes	Disobey
Spend	Advanced
Rushing	Fired

 Put these words in alphabetical order. Use numbers 1-20.

1. Curfew		11. Hard-working	
2. Caught		12. Discipline	
3. Stuck		13. Permission	
4. Dedication		14. Disrespect	
5. Skip		15. Independent	
6. Big deal		16. Own	
7. Dating		17. Concern	

8. Mistakes		18. Disobey	
9. Spend		19. Advanced	1
10. Rushing		20. Fired	

COMPREHENSION

 Video Script

MARTA ' S HOUSE

Action resumes.

MARTA You're too young. I have too many things to worry about. The last thing I want is to worry about you staying out late. The answer is no. And that's final

VIVIANA (frustrated) But, Mom??!!

MARTA Now get ready for school. Your father will be here any minute and I'm almost late to work.

Marta exits leaving Viviana quite frustrated. We hear a honk.

BENJAMIN, late 30' s, player, not too big on responsibility, macho, Latino waits in his truck equipped with cow decals and women silhouettes. Viviana gets in.

VIVIANA (still frustrated) Hi, dad.

BENJAMIN What ' s the matter? Did you skip breakfast?

VIVIANA No. Mom just doesn ' t understand.

BENJAMIN (fast to agree) Oh, I know that very well.

VIVIANA I can go to Kim ' s birthday party, right?

BENJAMIN Sure.

VIVIANA And come home around midnight.

Benjamin ' s agreeable tone suddenly disappears.

BENJAMIN Midnight!?

VIVIANA What ' s the big deal?

BENJAMIN No, no, no. I am not going to allow daughter to stay out until midnight.

VIVIANA Why not?

BENJAMIN There are boys at this party right?

VIVIANA Yeah?

BENJAMIN Well, you ' re not ready to be with boys.

VIVIANA How do you know?

BENJAMIN I know. You ' re not going to Kim ' s party because I say so and I am your father.

VIVIANA (realizing the uselessness) Oh, great! Now I can ' t even go to the party.

CLASSROOM

Viviana and her friend, KIM, friendly and caring, talk about Viviana ' s situation.

VIVIANA My parents just won ' t let me.

KIM Why not?
VIVIANA They both still think I'm 12 years old. They say I'm too young.
KIM Too young? Hello? You're 17.
VIVIANA My mom thinks I'll start dating. Then I'll leave school and have a baby! Like she did.
KIM But your Mom knows you learned from her mistakes. Doesn't she?
VIVIANA No she doesn't. We don't talk that much or spend much time together anymore.
KIM But she knows you're not going to leave school. You're a smart girl.. You're Ms. "I never have any problems in school." Have you ever even been to the counselor's office?
VIVIANA No.

A teacher walks in to deliver a note from the counseling office.
TEACHER Viviana.
VIVIANA Yes
TEACHER You need to go to the counselor's office.
KIM I guess there's always a first time for everything. What did you do?
VIVIANA I don't know.
 Worried, Viviana gets up and exits the classroom.

FACTORY

Marta runs to clock in. She is on time but CORNELIO, (total character) late 30's, dorky, wannabe-cool Latino, double checks to make sure she's following procedure.

CORNELIO Marta, sweetheart, you're a little late.
MARTA No, I am never late, Cornelio.
CORNELIO Honey, I told you before, you don't have to take the bus. I'm happy to drive you to work.
MARTA No thank you, Cornelio.
CORNELIO Please, baby, don't call me Cornelio. We're a big happy family. Call me Corny.

Marta almost bursts laughing but holds back.
MARTA Well, Corny, thank you for the offer. But I prefer taking the bus. And please, don't call me baby.

Marta walks away.
CORNELIO Oh, you're a difficult woman, Martita. I like that.
MARTA I'm a hard working woman. That's different.
CORNELIO Just remember one day you will want a ride from me.
MARTA Just remember, that I will never want a ride from you.

Cornelio fumes
CORNELIO We'll see about that.

Marta talks with her co-worker Dora, 40s Latina. They are laughing.
DORA He asked you to call him Corny?
MARTA I don't think he knows what that means in English.

Marta suddenly gets quiet.
DORA Hey Marta, what's the matter?
MARTA I am so busy with work, bills and now I'm having problems with Viviana.

DORA Problems with Vivianna? But she's a great student. And a really nice kid.
MARTA That's the problem. She's not a kid anymore. And she never listens to me.
DORA The same with my Juan Carlos. That's the problem with kids in this country. They don't listen to their parents.
MARTA I know. Vivianna needs more discipline.
DORA Send Vivianna back to Mexico if she gives you trouble. I'm going to send Juan Carlos back to Mexico if he gives me problems.
MARTA I've been thinking about sending her to her grandmother. I'll miss her. But maybe it's best.
DORA Yes, for her own good.

 Next to the number, write Y for a correct statement , N for incorrect.

1. Y Viviana wants to go to a friend's party
2. ___ Marta gives Viviana permission to go to the party
3. ___ Benjamin, Viviana's father is happy to let her go to the party
4. ___ Viviana and her mother don't spend time together
5. ___ Marta likes Cornelio
6. ___ Cornelio wants to give Marta a ride to work
7. ___ Marta is having problems with Viviana
8. ___ Dora tells Marta to send Viviana back to Mexico
9. ___ Marta thinks Viviana is too old
10. ___ Dora thinks Viviana is a good student

LIFE SKILLS

 Read and understand

COUNSELING OFFICE

Viviana enters MR. MARCUS's office. A good looking, man in his late 30s. He 's on the phone and signals Viviana in.

MARCUS (ON PHONE) Yeah, you know, if we get that dance group, it's going to be a great festival. Yeah. Hold on. Uh, come in.

VIVIANA You wanted to see me?

MARCUS Yes, Vivianna. Please, have a seat. (ON PHONE) Yeah, so you take care of that, okay? Okay. Bye.

VIVIANA Am in trouble?

MARCUS Trouble? No, you're not in trouble. Just the opposite. I want you to join our gifted program.

VIVIANA Gifted program? But isn't that for really smart people?

MARCUS That's why I'm asking you.
VIVIANA Gifted program? But isn't that for the really smart people?
MARCUS Yes, that's why I'm asking you!
VIVIANA Really?
MARCUS Absolutely. You deserve it. Are you interested?
VIVIANA I am. But do I need my parents' permission?
MARCUS Yes you do.
VIVIANA I don't know. My mom is really mad at me right now. I don't think she'll give me permission.
MARCUS But won't she be happy to hear you're a good student? I'll tell you what. Let me handle it. Just tell her I want to talk to her. Okay?
VIVIANA OK
MARCUS OK
VIVIANA Thanks, Mr. Marcus.
MARCUS Congratulations.
VIVIANA Thank you. (*OUTSIDE*) Dad, I have great news.
BENJAMIN Your mom buying you a new car.
VIVIANA No, Dad. I'm going to be in the gifted program.
BENJAMIN In what program?!
VIVIANA You know, it's for students who get really good grades or have special talents.
BENJAMIN (not thrilled) You mean special classes?
VIVIANA It's a great opportunity, Dad. It will help me get into college later.
BENJAMIN I don't think so, Vivianna. Your friends will make fun of you if you join that program. It's a terrible idea.
VIVIANA Well, I think it's a great idea. I know Mom will agree with me.
BENJAMIN (*burn, burn*) We'll see about that. *They drive off.*

MARTA'S HOUSE

Marta prepares dinner. Viviana comes in.
VIVIANA Hi, Mom.
MARTA Hi, Vivianna. How was school?
VIVIANA Good, Mom. My counselor, Mr. Marcus, called me in today. He wants to talk to you.
MARTA Wants to talk to me? What did you do?
VIVIANA What do you mean, what did I do?
MARTA You did something.
VIVIANA I was picked to be in a special gifted program, Mom. Why do you always think I did something wrong? Why can't you think I did something right for a change?
Viviana leaves the room and is about to leave the apartment.
MARTA Don't disrespect your mother. Vivianna. Vivianna. That's it. That's it. (PHONE RINGS)
Phone rings.
 Hello.

DORA'S APARTMENT

Dora and Juan Carlos eat dinner.
DORA Hola, Marta. What are you doing?
MARTA Dora, Viviana is in big trouble.

DORA Oh, no. Really?
MARTA Yes. I think I'll have to send her to Mexico. I need to ask you for a favor.
DORA Sure, what is it?
MARTA Please tell Mr. Cook I won't be there tomorrow because I need to go to Viviana's school.
DORA No problem.
MARTA Thank you.
DORA Bye.

SCHOOL HALLWAY

Marta is at Viviana's school. She approaches the "Information, Sign-in Desk".
MARTA Excuse me, I want to take my daughter out of this school. What office do I go to?

Clerk gives Marta an "are you serious?" look.
CLERK The attendance counter is right over there.
MARTA Thank you.

She starts to walk in that direction when suddenly she feels a tap on her shoulder.
MARCUS Ms. Cardona. Oh, it's good to see you. You know, but it wasn't necessary for you to come here. We could have talked over the phone.
MARTA I didn't come here to talk to you, Mr. Marcus. I came to take my daughter out of school.
MARCUS What? Why?
MARTA Mr. Marcus, living in the United States has made her disrespectful. I'm sending her back to Mexico to stay with her grandmother. That way she'll learn to respect me.
MARCUS Ms. Cardona, I don't believe Vivianna is disrespectful. She's a very smart and independent young woman. She likes to do things her own way. But...
MARTA Exactly. I can't allow that.
MARCUS Ms. Cardona, I understand how you feel. But please, Vivianna is one of eight students we want for our gifted program. This is a fantastic opportunity for her. Please. Don't take her out of school. Give your daughter that chance.
WIZARD And freeze.

Marta looks at him, looks at the Attendance office then.

 Read and understand

Parenting

Parenting in the United States takes time, patience and dedication. Parenting anywhere in the world takes a total commitment to the lives of the children in the family. In the United States, parenting becomes more difficult because of time limitations. Usually, parents have little time to dedicate to their children because of work schedules. For immigrants, the time constraints can be even more severe as many new comers often hold two or three jobs to make ends meet. Here are some suggestions to help parents cope with the demands of raising a family:

- Network with other parents at school or in the neighborhood
- Dedicate any free time to the needs of your children

- Seek support from your children's school
- Stay in touch with your children's teachers
- Be aware of cultural differences and adjust accordingly
- Be aware of alternative solutions to problems with your children

Meeting for Parents

Where: Lincoln High School
When: April 25, 2001 at 7 p.m.
Host: Daniel Marcus

Topics:

- Learn to help your child in school
- Learn to manage your time better
- Network (connect)with other parents
- Take ESL classes
- Learn about many support services
- Free refreshments
- Everyone welcome!

 Read the information above and choose the correct answer.

- a 1. This announcement is for
a. parents
b. students
2. Where is this meeting?
a. April 25
b. Lincoln High School
3. In this meeting parents will
a. Meet students
b. Learn to help their children
4. The host of this meeting is
a. Lincoln
b. Daniel Marcus

- ___5. Who is welcome?
a. Parents
b. Everyone
- ___6. How much will refreshments cost?
a. \$1
b. Nothing
- ___7. What kind of classes will parents learn about?
a. ESL
b. History
- ___8. Networking with parents means
a. Cooking lessons
b. Connecting with other parents
- ___9. In this meeting, parents will learn about
a. Other schools
b. Managing their time better
- ___10. What time is this meeting?
a. 8 p.m.
b. 7 p.m.

GRAMMAR

 Video script

WIZARD

And freeze. Wow. Do you think Marta will send Vivianna back to Mexico? Or will she allow her daughter to go into the gifted program? (SNEEZES) We'll find out soon. But first, let's do today's lesson. Adjectives describe nouns. For example, my mother is a beautiful and smart woman. Here are some other examples. Watch and listen.

KIM

She knows you're not going to leave school. I mean, you're a 'smart' girl.

CORNELIO

Oh, you are a difficult woman, Marta.

MARTA

I am a hard-working woman.

DORA

She's a 'great' student. And a really 'nice' kid.

 Read, understand and practice

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe things or people (nouns). Usually adjectives go before nouns. For example:

- Marta is a beautiful woman.
 - Beautiful is the adjective because it tells us about the word (or noun) woman.
- That's a big ball.
 - Big is the adjective because it describes the noun "ball."

More adjectives:

Small, large, nice, bad, thin, fat, short, tall, green (any color), full, empty, etc.

Choose the adjective

- c 1. Marta is a hard-working woman.
 a. is b. hard c. hard-working
2. Cornelio is a bad boss.
 a. bad b. boss c. Cornelio
3. Viviana is a good student.
 a. student b. good c. is
4. Dora is a nice friend.
 a. nice b. friend c. Dora
5. School is a safe place for students.
 a. students b. place c. safe
6. Mexico is a beautiful country.
 a. Mexico b. beautiful c. a
7. Who is the tall teacher?
 a. who b. is c. tall
8. There is an ugly animal under my bed.
 a. ugly b. bed c. under
9. That was an easy test.
 a. that b. easy c. was
-

- ___10. Mr. Marcus is an intelligent counselor.
 a. an b. counselor c. intelligent

SPECIAL SKILLS

 Video script

WIZARD Now, let's get back to our exciting story. Exciting is an adjective and story is a noun. And action.

SCHOOL HALLWAY

MARTA Mr. Marcus. I appreciate your concern for my daughter. Maybe she is a gifted student but she is also a disrespectful daughter. I'm sending Viviana back to Mexico.

She walks in the direction of the Attendance office, as Marcus shakes his head.

ATTENDANCE OFFICE

CLERK May I help you?

VIVIANA (OUTSIDE SCHOOL) Mom. Mom. How can you check me out of school?

MARTA I've had enough. You disrespect me. You disobey me. That's it. I'm sending you back to Mexico. Vamanos.

VIVIANA Back to Mexico?! Fine! If you don't want to see me I promise you won't see me again!

Viviana runs away of the office crying.

MARTA Vivianna! Vivianna! Oh, my God. She drives me crazy.

MARTA'S HOUSE

Marta speaks with a detective.

DETECTIVE I'm so sorry, Ms. Cardona. We have looked everywhere. But we can't find your daughter.

MARTA God. It's been more than a week.

DETECTIVE We'll keep trying. But I can't promise anything.

MARTA (to herself) Viviana, please come back, I'm so sorry.

WIZARD ROOM

WIZARD This is not a good situation. Vivianna is gone and Marta is miserable. Wait a minute. It doesn't have to end this way. Let's give Marta another chance. Okay? And action.

SCHOOL HALLWAY

MARTA So, Mr. Marcus. What exactly is this gifted program all about?

Marcus breathes a sigh of relief.

MARCUS **COUNSELING OFFICE**

Marta, Viviana and Marcus are sitting at a desk.

Great. Step into my office and I'll tell you all about it. (IN OFFICE WITH VIVIANNA) She

will take advanced courses and get work experience.
MARCUS She will take advanced courses, and she will get work experience.
MARTA Work experience?
MARCUS Yes, that's right. She'll learn about important topics of the work environment. That's my class. She'll even help the community. Like volunteer at the library, bring food to the homeless. And even teach people to read and write.
VIVIANA Wow. I'd love to help teach people to read and write.
MARTA That is nice.
MARCUS This helps our students when they go to college.
MARTA College? College, Vivianna?
MARCUS Viviana is a very bright young woman. You should be very proud.

Marta looks at Viviana realizing their distance
MARTA I'm so sorry, Vivianna. I had no idea.
VIVIANA I'm sorry, too. We need to talk more.
MARTA You're right. I've just been so busy with my own things. I forgot what's really important. I promise from now on, we will talk a lot.
VIVIANA And since we're talking, can I go to Kim's party and stay until midnight?
MARTA Don't push it.
MARCUS I'm telling you.
VIVIANA *(knowing there's hope)* OK, Mom.

FACTORY

Marta is about to clock in. Cornelio waits almost salivating in anticipation of what he's about to do.
CORNELIO Marta, Marta. You don't need to put that on, you know.
MARTA Why not?
CORNELIO Because you're fired!

Marta just stares in total disbelief.

List of Important Points to Remember

When you fill out a job application:

- Print clearly
- Answer every question
- Include a phone number where an employer can call you
- Make sure you write your most current address
- Include names and current phone numbers of past employers
- Be clear when you explain items (i.e. why did you leave your last job?)
- Don't lie in the application. Tell the truth
- Every item is important on a job application
- Sign and date the application
- Have a positive attitude!

 Read the information above and choose the correct answer.

- a 1. What's this?
 a. A list b. A letter c. A ticket
- ___ 2. These points are for a
 a. job application b. school class c. police officer
- ___ 3. How many questions do you answer in a job application?
 a. 20 b. all c. none
- ___ 4. When you fill out a job application, you need to...
 a. be fast b. use pencil c. print clearly
- ___ 5. Your address needs to be...
 a. in the city b. the most current c. local
- ___ 6. You need a current _____ for the employer to contact you.
 a. phone number b. ID c. good friend
- ___ 7. As long as you get the job, is it OK to lie?
 a. Sometimes b. Yes c. No!
- ___ 8. When you go for a job, your attitude should be...
 a. positive b. negative c. playful
- ___ 9. The most important item in a job application is...
 a. the last name b. the signature c. everything
- ___ 10. How many points are there on the above information sheet?
 a. 1 b. 10 c. 20

CONCLUSION

 Video script

WIZARD

Fired? Oh, can this be true? We'll find out in our next episode. In the meantime, remember good parents always talk with their children. We will see you next time here on English for All. Right now, I'm going to try this special remedy my mother gave me.

He pours the powder in a tea cup.

 ANSWERS

EPISODE THIRTEEN

VOCABULARY			COMPREHENSION		LIFE SKILLS
1. 5	2. 3		1. Y		1. a
3. 20	4. 7		2. N		2. b
5. 19	6. 2		3. N		3. b
7. 6	8. 14		4. Y		4. b
9. 18	10. 17		5. N		5. b
11. 12	12. 8		6. Y		6. b
13. 16	14. 10		7. Y		7. a
15. 13	16. 15		8. Y		8. b
17. 4	18. 9		9. N		9. b
19. 1	20. 11		10. Y		10. b

GRAMMAR			SPECIAL SKILLS	
1. c	2. a		1. a	2. a
3. b	4. a		3. b	4. c
5. c	6. b		5. b	6. a
7. c	8. a		7. c	8. a
9. b	10. c		9. c	10. b