

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

La entrevista de Valeria

An encouraging A2 story about preparing for an interview, speaking with confidence, and recognizing your own experience.

PREPARE

SPEAK

GROW

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ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Valeria wants a better job, but her first interview in English makes her nervous. Read to discover how she prepares and what she learns.

Before you begin

What makes someone a good employee? Write three qualities.

Meet Valeria

VALERIA

Valeria is 29 and works part-time in a grocery store. She is dependable and enjoys helping customers. She recently applied for a full-time receptionist position at a community health center.

Reading goal

Notice how Valeria describes past experience and answers common interview questions.

THE STORY · PART 1

The invitation

On Monday afternoon, Valeria received an email from Green Street Health Center.

The message invited her to a job **interview** on Thursday morning.

Valeria felt excited, but also **nervous**. She had never completed an interview entirely in English.

That evening, she called her cousin Elena, who worked in an office.

‘What questions will they ask me?’ Valeria said.

‘They will probably ask about your **experience**, your strengths, and why you want the position,’ Elena explained.

Together, they read the job **description**. The receptionist needed to answer phones, welcome patients, organize appointments, and use a computer.

‘You already do many of these things at the store,’ Elena said. ‘You greet customers, solve problems, and stay calm when it is busy.’

Valeria had not considered that. Her current job seemed different, but her **skills** were useful in both places.

She opened a notebook and began to prepare examples.

For two evenings, she practiced answering questions aloud. Elena reminded her to speak slowly and make eye contact.

By Wednesday night, Valeria still felt nervous, but she also felt more **prepared**.

Tell me about yourself

On Thursday, Valeria arrived fifteen minutes early. She wore a blue jacket and carried two copies of her **résumé**.

A manager named Ms. Wilson welcomed her into a bright office.

‘Please have a seat. Could you tell me about yourself?’

Valeria took a quiet breath. ‘I have worked at Mercado Central for three years. I help customers, answer questions, and train new employees. I enjoy working with people.’

‘Why are you interested in this **position**?’ Ms. Wilson asked.

‘I want a full-time job where I can use my customer-service experience and learn new office skills. I also like the health center's work in the community.’

Ms. Wilson smiled and wrote a note. Then she asked, ‘What is one of your greatest **strengths**?’

Valeria answered, ‘I remain calm when there is a problem. Last month, a customer could not find an important product. I listened carefully, checked our system, and called another store. We found it for her.’

‘That is a good example,’ Ms. Wilson said.

Valeria relaxed. The questions sounded familiar because she had practiced them.

THE STORY · PART 3

An honest answer

Next, Ms. Wilson asked, 'What is an area you would like to **improve**?'

Valeria paused. She did not want to give a perfect but dishonest answer.

'I am still improving my formal written English,' she said. 'I take an evening class, and I check my work carefully. I have made a lot of **progress** this year.'

'Thank you for being honest,' Ms. Wilson replied. 'Learning is important here.'

At the end, Ms. Wilson said, 'Do you have any questions for me?'

Valeria asked about the daily **responsibilities**, training, and the team.

The manager explained that the new receptionist would receive two weeks of training and work with four other employees.

Before leaving, Valeria shook her hand. 'Thank you for the **opportunity**. I enjoyed speaking with you.'

Outside, she realized that she had answered every question. She had made one small grammar mistake, but she had communicated clearly.

The following afternoon, the health center called. They offered her the job.

Valeria accepted and thanked Ms. Wilson. Her first day would be in two weeks.

She had thought confidence meant having no fear. Now she understood that confidence meant moving forward even when she felt afraid.

Your experience has value. Learn how to name it.

Words for interviews and work

Find each bold word in the story. Use the sentence to understand it before checking the Spanish meaning.

interview	entrevista
nervous	nervioso/a
experience	experiencia
description	descripción
skills	habilidades
prepared	preparado/a
résumé	currículum
position	puesto
strengths	fortalezas
improve	mejorar
progress	progreso
responsibilities	responsabilidades
opportunity	oportunidad

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose the best answer

1. Where does Valeria currently work?

a) A grocery store b) A hospital c) A school

2. Who helps her prepare?

a) Her manager b) Her cousin Elena c) A customer

3. How early does she arrive?

a) 5 minutes b) 10 minutes c) 15 minutes

4. What strength does she describe?

a) Writing quickly b) Staying calm c) Speaking three languages

5. What happens the next afternoon?

a) She receives a job offer b) She has another interview c) She returns to the store

B. True or false

1. Valeria has interviewed in English many times. **TRUE / FALSE**

2. Her store experience includes training employees. **TRUE / FALSE**

3. She says she has no areas to improve. **TRUE / FALSE**

4. The health center offers two weeks of training. **TRUE / FALSE**

5. Valeria decides not to accept the job. **TRUE / FALSE**

C. Complete the interview phrases

Use: **experience** • **interested** • **strength** • **opportunity**

1. I have three years of customer-service ____.

2. I am ____ in this position.

3. One of my greatest ____s is staying calm.

4. Thank you for the ____.

COMPREHENSION

Think and use English

D. Answer in a complete sentence

1. Why is Valeria nervous about the interview?

2. Which skills transfer from her store job?

3. Why does she want the receptionist position?

4. How does she describe an area for improvement?

5. What does confidence mean to Valeria at the end?

E. Prepare your answer

Write 4-5 sentences for 'Tell me about yourself.' Include your experience, two skills, and one goal.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. Multiple choice

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. a

B. True or false

1. False 2. True 3. False 4. True 5. False

C. Interview phrases

1. experience 2. interested 3. strength 4. opportunity

D. Suggested answers

1. It is her first interview entirely in English.
2. She greets customers, answers questions, trains employees, solves problems, and stays calm.
3. She wants full-time work, new office skills, and a community-focused workplace.
4. She honestly explains that she is improving her formal written English through classes and careful checking.
5. Confidence means moving forward even when she feels afraid.

KEEP GOING

Practice: I have experience in _____. One of my strengths is _____.

ENGLISH MADE CLEAR. PROGRESS MADE REAL.