

My Story

My name is Blanca. I am from Honduras. I came to this country in 2006 with my brother. I live in Allston, Massachusetts. I work in a restaurant. I am studying English to help my children write and do their homework.
Blanca R.

My Story

My name is Dunia. I am from Honduras. I came to the United States by myself in 2007. I live in Brighton, Massachusetts. I work at the Surface Work Cleaning company. I am studying English to understand my customers better.
Dunia S.

My Story

My name is Francisco. I'm from Brazil. I came to this country by myself in 2006. I live in Brighton, Massachusetts. I work in a restaurant as a cook. I need to learn English because I want to earn more money.
Francisco P.

My Story

Hello, I'm Jose A. I'm from Honduras. I came here in 2012. I was a student in my country, went to college, and started University. I have a great mother and father who help me. I'm happy because my family lives very well in my country.
My life in the United States is very good because I work for myself, and I am learning English and other languages. In a few years I want to go to Europe for a visit. Thank you!
Jose A.

My Story

My name is Merida. I am from Guatemala. I came to this country in 2002. I live in Allston. My job is in Boston. I am studying English because I need it for my job and because I want to help my children.
Merida R.

My Story

My name is Nicholas. I am from the Dominican Republic. I came to the United States in 1993 with my family. I work at a Lexus dealership in Allston. I am studying English to improve my English at my job.
Nicholas V.

My Story

My name is Rudi. I am from Guatemala. I came to this country in 2002 by myself. I live in Brighton, Massachusetts. I work in construction. I am studying English because it is necessary for me to be able to communicate with people wherever I go.

Rudi G.

My Story

My name is Weliton. I am from Brazil. I came by myself to this country in 2004. I live in Brighton, Massachusetts. I work in construction. I am studying English because I want to speak the language better.

Weliton B.

My Story

My name is Yeni. I am from Honduras. I came to this country in October 2016 with my daughter. I live in Allston, Massachusetts. I work in a Watertown laundromat. I am studying English because I want to speak and write better.

Yeni H.

My name is Mayram. I'm from Guatemala. I came to this country with my three children. I came to Boston for five years and then went back to my country. Then I started to work and my children grew - up. Times flies! After my fourth baby was born, I decided to stay here to have a better life for my children.

Mayram

I am short. I am middle age. I have straight black hair. I have brown eyes.

Sandra

I am medium height. I am middle age. I have black and curly hair. I have brown eyes.

Marcela

I am short. I am young. I have brown and straight hair. I have brown eyes.

Krissia

I am medium height. I have straight and brown hair. I have dark brown eyes.

Clara

I am slim. I am middle age. I am medium height. I have brown hair and a pony-tail. I have brown eyes.

Karen

I am short. My hair is brown and white and curly. I am older. My eyes are brown. I am fit.
Jose

I am short. I am young. I have brown and curly hair. I have brown eyes.
Wanda

I am short and young. My hair is black. My eyes are brown. I have a pony-tail.
Deysi

I am medium height. I am middle age. I have brown hair and straight hair. I have brown eyes.
Gabriela

I am short. I am older. I am thin. My hair is brown and I have a pony-tail. I have brown eyes.
Raquel

I am short. I am young. I have brown and straight hair. I have brown eyes.
Wesila

I am young. I am medium height. I have black and wavy hair and dark brown eyes.
Roxana P

I have one son and a daughter. I have 4 brothers and 4 sisters. I have a sister-in-law. I have 4 nephews.
Clara

I have 6 sisters, and I don't have a brother. I have 6 nephews and 5 nieces. I have 6 brother-in-laws.
Raquel

I have 2 sons and 2 daughters. I have 6 brothers and 1 sister. I have 4 nephews and 3 nieces.
Pedro

I have 1 sister and 1 brother. I have a son and a daughter. I have 6 grandchildren. I have 3 nephews and 2 nieces.
Prastoria

I have 7 brothers and 5 sisters. I have 12 nephews and 3 nieces. I have a sister-in-law.
Roxana C

I have 4 brothers and I do not have sisters. I have one nephew and 9 nieces. I have 2 sons and 1 daughter.
Roxana P

I have 1 brother and 2 sisters. I have 3 nieces and 2 nephews.
Jose

I have 1 son and 1 daughter. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. I have 3 nephews and 1 niece.
Karen

I have 1 son. I have 3 brothers and a sister. I have 1 nephew and 2 nieces.
Wesila

I have 1 daughter. I have 4 brothers and 3 sisters.
Deysi

I have 2 sons. I have 1 daughter. I have 4 nephews and 3 nieces.
Wanda

I have 1 brother and 2 sisters. I have 2 nephews and 2 nieces.
Krissia

Vacation

This summer I went with my family to a river. We swam in the cool water. I saw a big rock and the river was deep. The water is cool from the river because it comes from the mountains. We couldn't stay too long in the river because the water is too cold. We had a nice time with my family at the river.
Oneida

Vacation

My family and I went to New Hampshire last summer. My daughter loved the hotel. She enjoyed the pool and the next day we went to a mountain. There is a beautiful lake and they swam. I only walked around the river. We enjoyed this vacation, especially my kids.
Jesus

The Beach

I went to the beach when I took a trip to China this summer. I walked at the beach. I played in the sand with my children. We found some crabs and shells at the beach. We laid down on the sand and enjoyed the sunlight. We had a good time at the beach in China this summer.
Sandy

The Beach

I went to Rhode Island to the beach. I walked on the beach to relax. I talked to my friends. I had a special time with my friends.
Helena

Summer with My Children

Last summer, I had a lot of fun with my children. We went to the park to play outside. We also went to eat together. We ate ice cream and drank cold juice. We enjoyed last summer doing a lot of things together.

Emina

The Beach

This last summer I went to the beach in Rhode Island. I swam in the ocean. I walked on the beach. I laid down in the sand and felt the sun. I love the summertime.

Daniele

Coming to the USA

In August this year, my family and I came to the USA. We found an apartment for us. We visited the Harvard Museum and the Boston Public Garden. I took my daughter to the library to play and sing. I enjoyed the summer with my family.

Edneide

My father is Bechenel Poteau. My mother is Ilanie Alsaint. I have 1 sister. I have 1 brother. My nephew is 7.

Emene

I am not married. I don't have a girlfriend. I don't have a wife. I I have 4 children. I have 10 siblings, 7 brothers and 3 sisters. My daughter's names are Christina and Sophia. I have 2 boys, Enrique and Diego.

Abel

My daughter is Mauyda. I have 1 sister.

Veronique

I have three sisters. I have four brothers. My sister is Clara. Clara is older.

Juana

I have 3 brothers. I have 4 sisters. I have 2 daughters. My father's name is Sebastian. My mother's name is Maria. My wife's name is Sirlene. My daughter's name is Emelly.

Gabriel

I am married. My family is good. My wife's name is Aicha. I have nine children. I have six sisters and four brothers. I have 10 grandchildren.

Djlali

I want to read more at my work. My goal is to talk to more people. My goal is to speak more English at my work.

Irma

I am in class to read in English. My goal is to use a computer, My goal is to have more conversations with my teacher. My goal is to speak English at work. My goal is to speak to my boss in English.

Hector

My goal is to have more conversations and write in English. My goal is to write in English. My goal is to speak English with my doctor.

Juana

I want to write in English. I want to speak English at the store. I want to practice pronunciation.

Gabriel

My name is Hector. I am from Peru. I am 33 years old. My birth is in November.

Hector

My name is Veronique. I am from Haiti. My birthday is 1/15/56.

Veronique

My name is Emene. I am from Haiti. I am 62 years old. My birth is 2/23.

Emene

My name is Gabriel. I am from Brazil. I am 53. My birthday is 10/10.

Emene

My name is Irma Chavez. I am from Guatemala. I am 47 years old. My birthday is 12.06.72.

Irma

My favorite fruit is banana. My favorite vegetables are carrots.

Gabriel

My favorite fruit is a mango. My favorite vegetables are potatoes. I do not like onions.

Roberto

My favorite fruits are pears. My favorite vegetables are beets. I do not like mushrooms. I do not like artichokes.

Juana

My favorite fruit is watermelon. My favorite fruits are bananas. I do not like squash.

Juana

In my apartment there are 2 bedrooms. In my kitchen there is a table. In my living room there are 2 chairs.

Emene

In my apartment there are 3 bedrooms. In my kitchen there is a table. In my living room there is a sofa. In my bedroom there is a bed.

Juana

In my apartment there are 2 bedrooms. In my apartment there is a living room. In my apartment there is a dining room.

Gabriel

In my house there are 2 sofas. In my kitchen there is a stove. In my house there is a garage.

Rudy

In my apartment there is 1 bedroom. In my kitchen there is 1 toaster oven. In my bedroom there is a bed.

Hector

English Accomplishments

1) Now I can read better with my children and have longer conversations at work without fear.

2) One of my achievements I've had is to speak more English with my kids.

3) Now I can talk to my boss for a long time and she told me that my English is better.

4) Everyday I can speak English with my customers. Sometimes they text me and I can text back.

5) I have fixed many of my language mistakes and I speak more with American people.

6) I feel less nervous when I talk with people.

7) I can talk with someone on the phone without a translator.

8) I can now follow a recipe and understand what I am doing.

9) This year I have improved my English pronunciation and I feel more comfortable speaking with other people.

Thanksgiving

I was at my family's house. There were 5 people. I ate turkey, salad, rice, ham and mashed potatoes. I am thankful for my family.

Jose

For Thanksgiving, I was at home. There were 6 people. I ate pork, mashed potatoes and salad. I am thankful for my family.

Juana

For Thanksgiving, I was at my brother's house. There were 5 people. I ate mashed potatoes, turkey, chicken and rice. I am thankful for my family and my children.

Roxana C.

For Thanksgiving, I was at my friend's house. There were 13 people. We ate pork, salad, mashed potatoes and chicken. I am thankful for my friends and my husband.

Wesila

For Thanksgiving, I was at my house. There were 7 people at my house. We ate pork, rice, beans, salad and chicken. I am thankful for my family, my children and my health.

Clara

For Thanksgiving, I was at my house. There were 20 people there. We ate pork, chicken, salad and rice. I am thankful for my health and my family.

Krissia

For Thanksgiving, I was at my house with my husband. There were 2 people. I ate fish, salad and rice. I am thankful for my family.

Praskovia

For Thanksgiving, I was with my wife and sister. I was also at work. I worked a little, and I watched a movie with my wife. I spent time with my family and celebrated my mother's birthday.

Fredy

For Thanksgiving, I was with my family at our house. There were 4 people. I ate turkey, salad, fruit, beans, lasagna, vegetables and rice. I am thankful for my husband, my children and my friends.

Ginette

My Thanksgiving was with my family at my niece's house. There were 25 people. We ate salad, pork, chicken and rice. I am thankful for my family.

Andreia

I was at my family's and my friend's house for Thanksgiving. There were 16 people. We ate rice, pork, turkey and salad. I am thankful for my family and friends.

Pada

I was at work on Thanksgiving. I worked at the hospital. I ate lasagna and salad with my mother. I am thankful for my family and my friends.

Rony

I was at my family's house for Thanksgiving. There were 15 people there. We ate turkey, chicken and salad. I am thankful for my husband.

Paola

For Thanksgiving, I was at my friend's house. There were 6 people. I ate pork, chicken, rice and salad. I am thankful for my friends.

Ranielly

Three years ago, I parked my car in the street and the time was 1:30 p.m. I saw some cars parked there too. When I came back, I didn't find my car. I was very nervous and worried. I thought my car was towed. I took a deep breath to calm down. I hadn't had that problem before. I didn't know what to do. Nobody helped me. I tried to call the phone number on the street sign. I hadn't spoken with anybody on the phone without a translator before. When the woman answered the phone, I forced myself to speak with her. I asked her "Where is my car?" She told me the address but I didn't hear very well and I couldn't write it down. I tried to ask again and again. She said "Oh my God!" I think she got angry. I thought I couldn't ask anymore for it. I said "Okay" but I still didn't know how to get there. I used Google Maps to find the address. After that I needed to download the Uber app. I stood on the sidewalk for a half hour to set up everything. It was the first time I used an Uber. I was scared when I didn't understand something very well but I needed to do it. I went there and I had to pay almost \$200. After that I thought I have to be careful and look

at the street signs and I have to take an English class too. I have been studying English for many years. I think I will keep studying. I think it makes it easier to live here.

Flora

Every year we celebrate a holiday that we call "Aid Aladha". In the morning of the holiday, the Muslim people wear new clothes and go to the mosque to pray. After they finish, they kiss each other and give hugs and say "Aid mobarak". After that they slaughter a sheep and divide it into three parts. The first one is for eating, the second is to give to the poor, and the third part is for relatives. The traditional food on this holiday is to make a barbeque with liver and to drink some tea or soda and also eat salad. Aid Aladha is a religious holiday about the prophet Abraham. He had a dream that he sacrificed his son Ishmael. However, God sent him a sheep as a substitute for his son. We celebrate that Ishmael lived. This story happened in Mecca in Saudi Arabia so the Muslims still celebrate every year after Hajj in "doll hija lo".

Fatima

I want to write about my country. I'm from Honduras. It is a beautiful country. Sometimes I miss my family, the food, my friends, and my school. Honduras is a place that is very poor and the people don't have opportunities. I came to this country 5 years ago when I was very young. I like it here and I don't want to go back to Honduras. My goal, which is important, is to learn English because in the future I would like to be a nurse.

Marithza

Michelle, I want to write many things but all are summarized in one word, "grateful". I'm so grateful first with you for being in front of this big project that helps many immigrants. I'm grateful for the teachers and volunteers that help me to make my dream to speak proper English come true.

Claudia

When I was pregnant the doctor said to me, "He is a big and tall boy." When he was born at 37 weeks he looked like a one month-old baby. In the hospital, I went to a breastfeeding class. When I opened the door, I saw a few women with their babies. The women were tall and big but their babies were tiny and small. When I entered the class with my son in my arms, the teacher turned to me and had a grin on her face. Maybe it was because I was a short woman and my son was a big and tall. I must have looked funny in the breastfeeding class.

Mariola

I'm so excited about my son's graduation. He graduates in March next year. My family and I are so happy because he is making his dream into a reality.

Mileny

I think the most difficult decision that I had to make was when I was in my country six years ago. I had to decide if I should come to the U.S.A. or not. I knew that decision would change my life for the better and give me opportunities that my country doesn't have. I also knew that I could lose my life trying to come. That is why it was a very difficult decision. Thank God everything turned out good. Finally, I am living here.

Alex

Two years ago, I went to Santo Domingo after 18 years without going. I was very excited. I saw my mother and brother and I was very excited because I was with them after so long.

Annicer

I grew up in a small town. The name is San Pablo Villa de Mitla and it is in Oaxaca, Mexico. Many travelers visit my town because it is an archaeological area and the town has many artisans who make different products like hand embroidery.

Sonia

This is a good story for ghosts and poltergeists. In 2012, people studied people who believe ghosts still live in this world. The ghosts had a lot of activities. The article tells me about some stories that had ghosts. People found ghosts in St. Louis Cemetery. Also, the 110-year-old Stanley Hotel has plenty of time to gather ghosts who made songs. They also found in Changi Hospital in Singapore had many ghosts.

Shirley

A man called Greg Yance was serving a sentence for a drug conviction. He needed to help stop the flood from coming into the tiny town. He met a lady called Neoma Farr. He worked with a group and put the sandbags on the levee. He was working hard and he felt sad when he saw the flood. Neoma Farr wanted to serve lunch to those people working hard. Greg Yance felt happy to help those people in the town.

Shirley

Tonight's story was very touching because it teaches you how good humans respond when there is an emergency or tragedy. In this case, the person helping the town was doing some community service, and he was so happy just to get out of the four walls where he was serving time. But at the same time, he realized that he had a purpose or a story to tell. They worked so hard to keep the town safe, but they couldn't fight nature. Feeling frustrated that they couldn't protect the people or thinking that they could have done much more, they felt that it was their fault that everything collapsed - not knowing that people in the town were looking at them with a lot of respect, because they worked hard to keep everyone safe.

Jose

Tonight we listened to a story about a prisoner who was sent to a town in Illinois to help to reinforce the town's levee and prevent the flood from getting into the town. He went back to this town and met a lady who recognized him as a volunteer who was helping to protect the town from being washed away from the flood.

This guy told the lady he couldn't see anybody's face because he felt guilty that the flood happened and they couldn't protect the people. The sweetest part of this story for me is that it is hard to believe that a convicted person could have such a moving heart that he felt it was his fault the flood happened and people died. The lady was sweet too, by telling him that they had worked hard enough, but it wasn't their fault that the levee collapsed, causing the flood. She was happy to put a name to a face she saw that day and fed them as her own children because they were very young and she had children of her own by then.

He told her that the flood changed his life and helped him understand that he had a purpose in life. It touched his heart seeing many people helping each other, even when they were complete strangers. He felt that people's compassion comes when it's needed.

Dunia

When I was 16 years old, a strange man rang my house's doorbell, in the middle of the night. He was begging for help, saying that his wife just gave birth to his first born. It was a dark and stormy night, a perfect horror movie scene, and we weren't sure about his real intentions, but my father decided to believe him and he gave him a ride to the hospital.

This event became uncomfortable, because my mom and I stayed home, waiting for my dad, and we couldn't reach him on his phone, since it had died. We were so worried about him, considering all the bad news we usually see on TV, but thank God he ended up getting home a couple hours later, safe and sound.

Otavio

A few weeks ago, my two kids asked me if we could eat a dog. They told me there were playing in and out of the front porch of our house. Then, a strange guy with a dog said something like his dog was nice, but he would eat him later, and then he left. I told the kids that the guy was joking, but actually didn't know what to say, since I know some people in Korea eat dogs to be healthy. Since then, the kids talk to each other about the episode and seem like they believe it's okay to eat a dog. I wish I could find the guy and have him tell them it was a joke. My children are at an impressionable age, so this episode made a big impression on them, and they can't get it out of their heads.

Hyunji

25 years ago, Greg arrived at the Mississippi river. The Mississippi and Missouri Flood was one of the worst in US history. Greg helped with sandbagging. But the town flooded anyway and it crushed him. He couldn't look at anybody.

Neoma was a beauty shop owner at that time. She recognized Greg as the same age as her children, but she didn't know his name. She thought about her children. She said Greg worked his tail off. He would've worked harder and faster. They were all in there together. She never got to know anybody's name. She just remembered Greg, and was happy to meet him now.
Soe Soe

I can't remember a lot of memories with a stranger that "stuck with me," but I definitely remember one man who made me realize I was actually in the USA. I know this story is not a perfect story about impressing someone, but he stuck with me.

The first time I arrived in the USA, I saw a few cars ignoring the pedestrian sign. Of course, in Korea, we do the same. The drivers often ignore the signal, but I never saw someone make a protest out loud. On that day, one car ignored a sign and almost hit a woman. The woman was really surprised about that car, and so was I.

Then all of a sudden, a man showed up and protested. Not only saying something, but literally he tapped the hood. I was really surprised. The man protested out loud and the expression of his voice was certainty. Funnily, I felt freedom of expression and I realized I was actually in the USA!
Yoonjin

My name is Geraldo Alvim and my company name is Frest Cleaning Company. I describe my business as a special cleaning company that focuses on residential and commercial cleaning.

We're a very trustworthy company working hard for the last 17 years in Massachusetts. The features and benefits of our company are leaving our customers' houses and spaces neat and tidy, which brings satisfaction to them.

We try to do a different and better job than our competitors because there are a lot of companies working in the same area. This tends to push prices down.

The way we conquer the competition is by delivering the best quality possible in spite of the giant competition we face nowadays.

Our tag line is "We work hard to make your life easier."
Geraldo

My name is Gloria Pinheiro, and my company is named Nice and Neat Cleaning Services. My business provides complete cleaning services, giving my customers satisfaction and a feeling of calm and happiness. We are reliable, dependable, and trustworthy.

I value the fact that my customers trust me with their houses, their belongings, their privacy, and even their children.

I have a rule that I follow, and it helps me with the quality of my work. I only work for people that I like and have good feelings about them.

Money is important but definitely, it is not the main issue for me. My reputation and integrity are the most valuable things that I have.

My tag line is, "You deserve the best! When you come home to relax and rest, you should feel as though you are entering your personal sanctuary."

Gloria

My name is Lelys Diaz, I'm a Fitness Instructor and I have been teaching for more than seven years. My business is an effective and complete fitness service that makes you happy and healthier. *Fun Fitness* provides personal or group work out classes in various disciplines like Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, Body Conditioning, Pound and more; my classes are for Kids, Young Adults, and Seniors.

Our classes are created and designed according to your needs. We perform fun classes with different rhythms from all over the world immersing you in a party atmosphere without realizing that you are exercising.

If you like to have fun and want to work out, *Fun Fitness* has a class for you: "where training is a party."

Lelys

Hi! My name is Blanca, and my company name is Blanca's Cleaning Service. My company offers excellent and refreshing cleaning and also I am responsible and honest. We will clean your home or office from floor to ceiling with the best organic, nontoxic products. We tailor our cleaning routines based on customer needs: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly. Our tag line is: *You Make the Mess, We do the Rest!*

Blanca

My name is Valtecir Oliveira and my company is Val's Painting and Services, Inc. I worked for another company for 10 years and four years ago I opened my own business. I do all

kinds of painting but my specialty is interior work including wallpaper. Our team can tackle the most complicated job. We work with builders, architects, and contractors to create one-of-a-kind environments for homes and commercial spaces. We bring over fifteen years of experience and the latest equipment to every job.

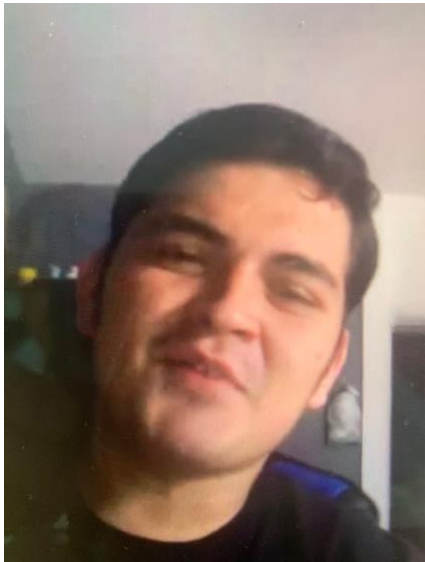
Valtecir

My name is Erick Jose.

I was born in Guatemala and I went to school for five years. I worked as a farmer from 6 until I was 17 years old. Now I work doing carpentry and I study English.

In the future, I want to buy a house in Watertown and I also want to buy a truck.

Erick



Hello:

I want to improve my speaking and listening skills. I need to improve my pronunciation, and I would like to understand more when people speak to me.

For me, it is very important to not feel stressed when I speak to other people.

Thank you.

Rony



My name is Floricelda I am from Guatemala. I liked to play soccer when I was a child. I live in Brighton. I have a daughter and I study English at the GPA School. In the future, I want to find a good job and move to a bigger and better apartment with my family.
Floricelda



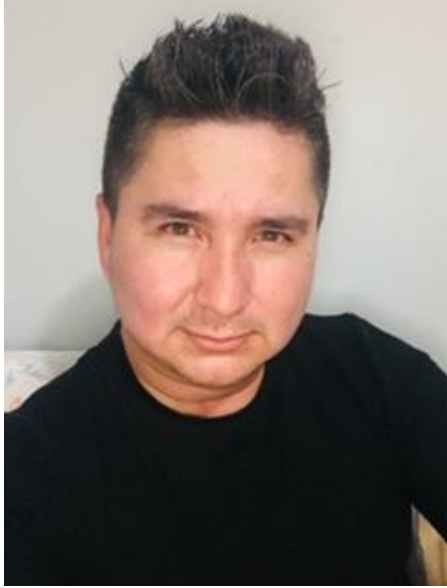
My name is Andreia Pedrosa and I'm from Brazil. I worked as a volunteer for a kids 'center where they played games and sports, like soccer and volleyball. I was also a teacher for children with special needs. I want to improve my English so I can communicate with the hospital and pharmacy and for my work and I want my children to go to college.
Andreia



My name is Santos and I like to go parties, and dance with my girlfriend. We always have a great time and I feel very happy. After the party we plan to go to the restaurant to eat dinner and shop for clothes and shoes. I have improved my English speaking skills.
Santos



I work on Saturday with my wife, and after work we watch a movie. I like to cook fish for dinner on Fridays, On Sunday, my wife works at a hospital. I like to wear a black coat on cold days. I enjoy the GPA school and like my teacher and classmates.
Fredy



My name is Maria and on Saturdays I like to play soccer with my daughter. Monday to Friday, I work in Brookline and on Sunday I go to Church. I like the GPA school and I like my teacher and classmates.

Maria



I like to go shopping at the mall on Saturdays. I enjoy singing at my church every Saturday morning. I like to watch TV with my kids.

Ginette



My name is Paola Rangel and I am from Brazil. I live in Brighton and I have been living in the US for 3 years.

I have learned many things at the Gardner school and I have learned the verbs to be, do, does, pronouns, and wh- questions. I try to speak English at work, the gym, shopping, and at the doctor's office.



My name is Xiomara. I live in Allston with my family. I take English class in Gardner. I learned about the verb to be and I now understand the verb to Do and Does, pronouns and I also learned how to write a resume. I am happy that next Thursday we will celebrate the end of class.



My name is Ranielly. I am from Brazil. I live in Allston and have been in the US for 2 years. I study English at the Gardner school. I have learned the verb to be, simple present tense, interrogative, negative, do, does. I try to speak English at work, pharmacies, restaurants, and stores.



I enjoy cooking food for the family. I like to clean my house. I like to go shopping at the mall. I like to listen to music. I study English two days a week. I like to eat Chinese food with my husband on Wednesdays.

Monyroth