



Lesson 6
**MI FIRST
EXPERIENCIA EN
SOUTH AMERICA**
Part 1



COGNADAS

- In this story we will learn 84 different cognates. They are shown in the bold print.
- Cognates are words that are similar in both languages.
- About 24% of the story contains cognadas (275/1143)

We left the **Salt Lake City Aeropuerto** en January 20, with **una final destino** to **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. There were 4 of us **en** the **grupo**, **Laura, Kerry, Gilberto** and I. We were going to start our **misiones en** the **Argentina Córdoba Misión** We had a layover of 4 **horas en Los Angeles**. **Durante** this **tiempo** we had to go to the **Argentina Embajada en** order to **obtener** some signatures **en** our **visas**. We didn't have any **problemas** with this. We **continuamos en** our trip and had **otra** layover **en México Ciudad**. **Por 40 minutos** we had to leave the airplane and sit **en** the **recepción** at the **aeropuerto** there. We returned to the plane and **continuamos** the trip. This time the layover was **en Bogotá, Colombia**. Again for 40 minutes we had to leave the plane and go into the **aeropuerto**.

AIRPORT



LEARNING SPANISH



En Bogotá, I had **mi** very first **oportunidad** to **usar mi español en una** foreign country. Before coming **en mi** **mission**, I had taken **español por** two years at **Maryvale High School en Phoenix, Arizona**. I had **estudiado español por** 8 more weeks **en** the LTM (**Lengua Training Misión**) **en Provo, Utah**. I could not speak **rapidamente o** with **fluencia**. As a matter of fact, I really couldn't **comprender mucho** of the spoken word. But, I was **en** better shape than **Laura, Gilberto, o Kerry**. They had only **estudiado español por** 8 weeks **en** the LTM. For them, I was the **experto**.

WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?

En the **Bogotá Aeropuerto**, **Gilberto necesitaba** to go to the bathroom. He wanted **me** to help him **encontrar** out the **direcciones** of how to get to the bathroom since I could speak better than he could. Being glad to help and feeling quite **importante** I went up to **un Colombiano** man and asked, “Señor, ¿Dónde está la baño?”

The **persona respondió**,
”Usteddebetomarestepasilloysiguederech
oyentonces
doblealaderechaysigueotropasilloyyaestá
!”



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

It sounded like he had said **una gigantesco** word and I didn't **comprender** any of it. Luckily, he had also pointed while he was answering the question. So, pretending to **Gilberto** like I understood what he said and that I knew what I was doing and where I was going, I took off down the corridor **en** the **dirección** that he had pointed. **Gilberto** followed along. After awhile, I went up to a lady and said," Señor, **perdone** Usted ¿dónde está la baño?

She replied,"
Doble Usted a la derecha **en** este otro pasillo y ya está!"

Once again it sounded like **uno** huge word, not quite as big as the first **persona's**. But once again, I was **en** luck. She had pointed **en** the **dirección** of **otro** hallway while she was talking. Once again, I pretended to **Gilberto** that I had **comprendido** and that I knew what I was doing. He followed again.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

FOUND THE BATHROOM!

En the next hallway, I went up to a man who was sweeping the floor. Feeling more **confianza** since I had already successfully talked to two **Colombianos**, I said, "Perdone Usted El Señor ¿dónde está la baño?"

He **respondió**, "Qué **Gringo** tonto que ni sabe leer un letrero que está **enfrente** de sus ojos! Allí está!" He pointed and I saw a sign that was about 10 feet away that had "Baño" written **en grandes letras**.

I knew deep down inside that I had been able to get **Gilberto** to his goal, the bathroom, only because **personas** had pointed each time that they had spoken. (I soon learned that **español** speakers make a lot of **gestos**, and it **ciertamente** was helpful that they did.) **Gilberto** was so **impresionado** with me. I didn't want to spoil his **percepción** of **mi español** speaking **capacidad** so I **continué** to pretend that I had **comprendido** when they had been speaking.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

OUT OF TOILET PAPER

I went into the bathroom first. There was a toilet, but it didn't have a seat. That was **ok** with **me** because I didn't **necesitar** a seat this time. I went out and smiled to **Gilberto** as he went **en-** because I knew that he **necesitaba** a seat. I waited **por** him outside. I waited 5 **minutos**, then 10 **minutos**, and **finalmente** 15 **minutos**. I looked at **mi** watch and could see that it was getting close to the **tiempo** that the plane should be taking off again. I was **preocupado** that we were going to miss our plane. The layover was for 40 **minutos** and we had **usado** quite a few of those **minutos** looking **por** the bathroom. What had happened to **Gilberto**? What was wrong? Why had he been **en** the bathroom so long? **Finalmente**, being **nervioso** about missing the plane, I knocked **en** the door and shouted through the closed door, "**Gilberto**, are you **ok**?"

He yelled back, " **No!** There isn't any **papel higiénico** en here! I need some **papel higiénico**! Please get **me** some!"

The only thing that I could **rapidamente** find to help **Gilberto** out with his **emergencia** was a white **papel** bag that was **en** a trash bin. He **aceptó mi** gift with **gratitud**. It was better than nothing and it **permitió** us to get back to the plane just **en tiempo**.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

MORAL OF THE STORY

From this unforgettable **experiencia** we both learned something that was very **importante** that would be of much **beneficio por** the remaining two years of our **misiones**: Always carry some **papel higiénico** with you in **caso** of **emergencias** because **publicos** bathrooms **usualmente** didn't have **papel higiénico en** hand.

I also **comprendí** that if I asked enough **personas** and followed their cues, **gestos**, and the few words that I could understand that I would **eventualmente** figure out what was **necesario en** order to reach **mi** goal.

I don't think that I will ever forget **mi** first **experiencia en** South **America**.

QUESTIONS FOR COMPREHENSION!

1. How many **personas** were **en** the **grupo**?
2. Where were they going **en** the trip?
3. How many layovers did they have **en** the flight?
4. **Nombra** the **ciudades** where they had layovers.
5. **En** which **ciudad** did they have to go to the **Argentina Embajada**?
6. Why was it **necesario** to go to the **Argentina Embajada**?
7. What is the purpose of a **visa**?
8. **En** what **ciudad** did **Gilberto** have to go to the bathroom?
9. What are some **errores** that the **autor** made when he spoke **español**?
 - a. **masculino** and **feminine**
 - b. wrong word choice
10. What **es** the meaning of some of the words **en español** that the **autor** could not **figurar** out because they sounded like one **gigantesca** word to him?
11. Why did **Gilberto** want the **autor**'s help **en encontrando** the bathroom?
12. What are two **problemas** that **Gilberto encontró en** the **público** bathroom?
13. What did all the **miembros** of that **grupo** learn from **Gilberto's experiencia**?
14. What did the **autor** learn about **comunicación** even though he was struggling?

Brevemente explicar una time where you **necesitaba** to ask for **direcciones en** order to **encontrar** something that you were looking for.

What **es** an **ejemplo** from Señor Goss showing that we speak **rapidamente en inglés**?