

LECTURA GRADUADA • NIVEL A1

El primer día de Camila

A short story about new beginnings, helpful words, and being brave at work.

READ	LEARN	SPEAK
A workplace story	Glossary in Spanish	Useful first-day phrases

FREE LEARNING MATERIAL

Created for Spanish speakers building confidence in real-life English.

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Camila is starting a new job. Read once for the main idea. Then read again and use the bold words with the glossary.

Before you begin

How do you feel on the first day of a new job? Circle two words.

nervous	excited	curious	tired	happy
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Meet Camila



Camila is 27. She moved from Guatemala to Oregon three years ago. Today is her first day as a receptionist at a community health center. She understands English, but she needs more practice speaking.

Useful goal

By the end, you will know how to introduce yourself, ask for repetition, offer help, and answer a workplace phone call.

THE STORY · PART 1

A door with her name

Camila arrives at the health center at 8:15. Her **shift** starts at 8:30, but she wants to be early. She stands outside the glass door and takes a slow breath.

Inside, a woman at the front desk looks up. 'Good morning. Can I help you?'

'Good morning,' Camila says. 'My name is Camila Torres. Today is my first day.'

The woman smiles. 'Welcome, Camila! I'm Denise, your **supervisor**.' She gives Camila a name **badge**. 'Come with me. I'll show you around.'

They walk through a bright **hallway**. Denise shows her the waiting room, the break room, and a small desk beside the entrance.

A white card on the desk says CAMILA. Seeing her name makes the job feel real.

'This is your **workspace**,' Denise says. 'You will greet patients, answer the phone, and make **appointments**.'

Denise speaks quickly. Camila understands 'patients' and 'phone,' but she misses the last part.

For one second, Camila wants to smile and say yes. Then she remembers the phrase she practiced at home.

'Could you please **repeat** that more slowly?'

'Of course,' Denise says. She repeats the **instructions**, one step at a time.

Camila writes them in a **notebook**. 'Thank you. That helps a lot.'

As Denise walks away, Camila looks at the card with her name. The first difficult moment is over.

THE STORY · PART 2

The first patient

At 9:05, the front door opens. A man and a little girl enter. The man looks **confused**.

Camila smiles. 'Good morning. How can I help you?'

'My daughter has an appointment with Dr. Lee,' he says.

Camila looks at the computer. There are many names on the **schedule**. She finds the girl's name: Maya Johnson, 9:15.

'What is your daughter's date of birth?' Camila asks.

The man answers, but Camila does not hear the month. The waiting room is **noisy**. A baby is crying and a phone is ringing.

'I'm sorry. Did you say May or March?'

'May,' he says clearly.

Camila checks the information. 'Thank you. Please have a **seat**. The nurse will call her name soon.'

The man sits down. The little girl looks at Camila's name badge.

'Is it your first day?' she asks.

Camila laughs. 'Yes. How do you know?'

'Your notebook is very new,' Maya says.

Camila looks at the clean blue cover. 'You are right.'

A few minutes later, Maya waves as she follows the nurse. Camila waves back. She has helped her first patient **successfully**.

She makes a small check mark in her notebook.

THE STORY · PART 3

Camila answers the phone

At 10:20, the phone rings. Camila's heart beats **faster**. Speaking face to face is easier because she can see the other person.

She answers: 'Good morning. Green Valley Health Center. This is Camila speaking. How may I help you?'

A woman wants to **reschedule** an appointment. She gives her name and speaks very fast.

'Let me **confirm** your name,' Camila says. 'Is it Laura Mendoza?'

'Yes, that's correct.'

Camila finds an **available** time on Thursday afternoon. She changes the appointment and reads the new date back to Laura.

'Perfect. Thank you for your help,' Laura says.

When the call ends, Denise walks over. 'Excellent job. You were clear and **professional**.'

'I was nervous,' Camila says.

'Being nervous is normal. You still did the work.'

At lunch, Camila meets two **coworkers**, Jamal and Priya. She introduces herself and asks them about their jobs. They invite her to sit with them.

At 4:30, Camila's first shift ends. Her notebook is no longer clean. It is full of names, reminders, and useful phrases.

Before she leaves, she writes one final sentence:

I do not need perfect English to do good work.

She closes the notebook, says goodbye to her coworkers, and walks out through the glass door. Tomorrow, the door will feel easier to open.

Words for your first day

Say each word aloud. Find it in the story and notice how Camila uses it at work.

ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL
shift	turno de trabajo
supervisor	supervisor/a
badge	gafete / identificación
hallway	pasillo
workspace	espacio de trabajo
appointment	cita
repeat	repetir
instructions	instrucciones
notebook	cuaderno
confused	confundido/a
schedule	horario / agenda
noisy	ruidoso/a
seat	asiento
successfully	con éxito
faster	más rápido
reschedule	cambiar la fecha de una cita
confirm	confirmar
available	disponible
professional	profesional
coworker	compañero/a de trabajo

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose the best answer

1. Where does Camila work?

- a) A restaurant b) A health center c) A school

2. Who is Denise?

- a) Her supervisor b) A patient c) Her sister

3. What does Camila ask Denise to do?

- a) Call a doctor b) Repeat slowly c) Write an email

4. Why does Camila not hear the month?

- a) The room is noisy b) Her phone rings c) Maya whispers

5. What does Laura want to do?

- a) Cancel forever b) Speak to Maya c) Reschedule

B. True or false

1. Camila arrives after her shift starts. **TRUE / FALSE**
2. Camila writes instructions in a notebook. **TRUE / FALSE**
3. Maya notices that Camila is new. **TRUE / FALSE**
4. Camila refuses to answer the phone. **TRUE / FALSE**
5. Denise says Camila sounds professional. **TRUE / FALSE**

C. Useful language

Complete each phrase with a word from the box: **help • repeat • confirm • seat**

1. How can I _____ you?
2. Could you please _____ that?
3. Let me _____ your name.
4. Please have a _____.

COMPREHENSION

Think and use English

D. Answer in a complete sentence

1. Why does Camila arrive early?

2. What are three things Camila does at her desk?

3. How does Camila solve a problem when she does not understand?

4. Why is the phone call important?

5. What does Camila learn on her first day?

E. Your turn

Write a four-line introduction for your first day at work. Include your name, your role, one thing you can do, and one question.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. Multiple choice

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

B. True or false

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

C. Useful language

1. help 2. repeat 3. confirm 4. seat

D. Suggested answers

1. She wants to be early for her first shift.
2. She greets patients, answers the phone, and makes appointments.
3. She asks people to repeat or confirm information.
4. She completes it clearly even though she feels nervous.
5. She learns that she does not need perfect English to do good work.

**KEEP
GOING**

Practice Camila's four useful phrases aloud. Say each one three times with a calm, clear voice.

INGLÉS REAL. PARA UNA VIDA SIN BARRERAS.