

Flor's Journey to Independence
Modified Version
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Chapter 10

My Journal, Monday, May 13

I am excite. I am go to party at the house of my manager. It is one barbecue and I will take something of food. Betina is invite and other childs will be in the party. I am happy for my manager.

Karen:

The barbecue sounds like fun. Will you take Mexican food? The mistakes you are making now are minor compared to a few months ago. I underlined some of the grammar mistakes. Can you figure out the correct forms? If not, ask another student.

The day of the party came sooner than Flor expected. She was nervous. She didn't know what to wear.

"Have you ever been to an American party, Carmen?" Flor asked her friend. They were in Flor's apartment making *mole* for the barbecue at David's house. *"I'm not sure what I should wear. Do you think I should wear a dress?"*

Carmen laughed. *"Ask one question at a time! Yes, I have been to an American party. And barbecues are informal. I think everyone will be wearing pants or shorts."*

The sun was still high in the sky when Flor and Betina arrived at David's house. They rang the doorbell.

A woman came to the door. She was smiling. Her short blond hair and red shorts and top looked so American. Flor took a deep breath and said, “Hi. I am Flor. Is David at home?”

“Hi, Flor! I’m Sarah, David’s wife. Come in. Everyone is in the back yard.”

Sarah opened the screen door for Flor and Betina. She led them through the house to the patio outside. Flor saw David at the grill. He was barbecuing hamburgers.

She and Betina headed that way. Betina asked if she could play with some other children on a swing set.

Flor said yes. She watched her daughter run over to the group. Betina asked in English if she could play with them. Flor wished she felt as confident as Betina did.

David waved at her, and Flor joined him at the grill. She didn’t know any of the people talking to David. He introduced her and then pointed out other people in small groups on the patio and over by the garden. They were his neighbors and other friends. She didn’t see any of her co-workers except for Linda.

“Where is the other peoples from work?” Flor asked David.

“Oh, this isn’t a work party. We only invited our family and friends,” David answered with a smile.

Flor didn’t know what to say. Finally she stammered, “Th-thank you.” David thought of her as a friend! She was embarrassed and proud. David was busy with the hamburgers, so she said; “I will go to see Linda now.”

She headed toward the patio where Linda was having a lively discussion with some other people. Linda turned to her. “*Come join us,*” she said. “*Some of my friends speak Spanish.*”

“Is OK,” said Flor. “I speak English!”