



**Welcome Parents**

# **WE ARE NEW YORK**

## **Study Guide**



**LEARN  
ENGLISH!**

# STUDY GUIDE CONTENTS

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## Read

the story in the  
Study Guide.

## Watch

the show  
on TV.

## Learn

English  
with our stories.

### Acknowledgments

**We Are New York Study Guides:** Created and written by David Hellman, Rebecca Leece and Hillary Gardner of The City University of New York. Designed by Renée Skuba and Christian Luis. Screen captures by Hiroko Takeda and Matt Harvey. Cover art by Stedroy Cleghorne. Translations by Eriksen Translations Inc. Design Director: André Pennycooke. Senior Advisor and Editor: Leslee Oppenheim. Project Director: David Hellman.

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# Welcome Parents

The parent-teacher conferences are next month...



But it's not easy to talk to the teachers in English.

**What can you do  
to help your children in school?**

# Carmen and Juan

Carmen reads a letter about the parent-teacher conferences.  
Juan is watching soccer on TV.



Juan, the school is having the parent-teacher conferences again.



That's nice.

It's difficult for Carmen to talk to the teacher.  
Their daughter, Lupe, needs help in school.



Nice?  
Last time was a disaster.  
I couldn't understand anything the teacher said.



Juan, I'm worried about Lupe's reading. She's having trouble.

Juan is not worried. He says the teacher will help Lupe.



If Lupe's having trouble, the teacher will take care of it. That's her job.



We have to help Lupe. Why did we come to this country? For her education!

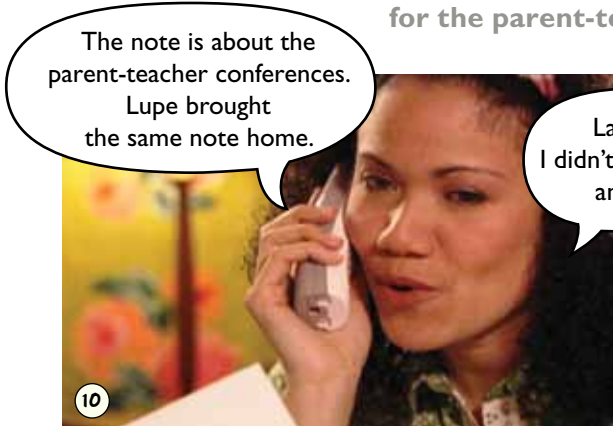


# Fatima and Sayeed

Fatima's family gets the same school letter.  
Sayeed is watching the same soccer game.



Carmen and Fatima decide to get ready  
for the parent-teacher conferences.



Fatima tells Carmen about the parent coordinator.  
Carmen calls 311 to get the number.



# The Parent Coordinator

Carmen and Fatima go to the school together.



They meet with the parent coordinator.  
They talk about the parent-teacher conferences.



The parent coordinator helps parents.



---

She says Carmen and Fatima are leaders!



---

They decide to talk to other parents.





# Taking Action

Carmen and Fatima meet other parents in the park.



They talk about the parent-teacher conferences.



Pierre and Carmen have good ideas.





# Carmen and Juan at Home

Carmen comes home. She tells Juan about the meeting.



---

Carmen thinks Juan should get involved, too.



# Saturday in the Park

Juan and Sayeed practice soccer.  
The other parents practice asking questions.

Okay, everyone,  
we have good questions.  
Now we have to practice  
asking them out loud.  
Like actors on TV.



Is there  
any extra reading  
I can give  
my son?



Is my son doing  
his homework...

...every night?

---

Juan and Sayeed get interested.



# That Night At Carmen and Juan's Apartment

Juan reads with Lupe.



What is this a picture of, Lupe?



It's the princess.



And what is she doing?

Read the words, Papi!



And the prince said...



"I love you, princess!"



# Conference Night

It's the big night. Is Juan coming? Of course he is!

Do you know what time it is?  
The conferences are starting.



Are you coming or not?



I can't decide.

I'm leaving.



Wait! I can't decide.  
Which tie  
will the teacher like?



It doesn't matter.  
You don't need  
to wear a tie.  
Let's go.



Carmen! This is important.  
This is our daughter's education!



# The Parent-Teacher Conferences

Everyone goes. Everyone asks good questions.

How can I help my son with his reading?



Can you please slow down and explain what you mean?



Of course.

Oh! You didn't tell me, Jean-Claude. You won the poetry contest?!



Can I get my daughter's report card in Spanish?



Of course. You can also call me anytime. The door is always open.



## Who We Are

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

~~Carmen~~ • Fatima • Juan • Lupe • Sayeed  
Lupe's teacher • parent coordinator • Pierre and Ming



1. I'm Carmen. The parent-teacher conferences are next month! Last year was a disaster. I couldn't understand the teacher. This year will be different. My friends and I are practicing our lines. Like actors on TV!

2. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Our daughter, Lupe, is a good student. But this year she's having trouble with reading. My wife wants me to get involved!



3. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I'm in second grade. My father calls me the "Princess of Sunset Park." I like it when he reads to me. Soccer is my favorite sport.

4. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I teach the students, and I also talk with their parents. If the parents get involved, the children do better in my class. That makes me happy.







5. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Carmen and I have a plan. We're meeting with other parents in the park to get ready for the parent-teacher conferences. We want our husbands to join us.

6. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I'm married to Fatima, and we have a son. I know it's important to get involved in my child's education, but sometimes I don't know what to say.



7. Our names are \_\_\_\_\_. We are parents, like Carmen and Fatima. We all want to help our children do well in school.



8. Hello, I'm the \_\_\_\_\_ at the school. I help parents with questions about school. Parents can ask for an interpreter. They can also get the NYC Family Guide in eight languages.



# What Happens?

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

calls • get involved • gives • is  
make an appointment • receives • says

1. Carmen receives a letter from her daughter's school.
2. The letter \_\_\_\_\_ the school is having the parent-teacher conferences again.
3. Carmen \_\_\_\_\_ concerned. Last year she couldn't understand anything the teacher said.
4. Fatima gets the letter, too. She \_\_\_\_\_ Carmen to talk about it.
5. Carmen and Fatima \_\_\_\_\_ to see the parent coordinator.
6. The parent coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Fatima and Carmen the NYC Family Guide.
7. The parent coordinator encourages Fatima and Carmen to \_\_\_\_\_ in the school.

asks • convinces • doesn't think • meet • practice

8. Carmen and Fatima \_\_\_\_\_ other parents in the park.
9. Together, they make a list of questions, and they \_\_\_\_\_ asking the questions out loud.
10. At first, Carmen's husband, Juan, \_\_\_\_\_ it is important to get involved.
11. But in the end, Carmen \_\_\_\_\_ Juan to get involved.
12. At the parent-teacher conference, Juan \_\_\_\_\_ Lupe's teacher many good questions. Carmen is very proud!

# Where Is It?

Find these things in the story.  
Write the page number(s). Follow the example.



1. letter from the school page 1
2. fire hydrant \_\_\_\_\_
3. NYC Family Guide \_\_\_\_\_
4. picnic table \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pierre's notebook \_\_\_\_\_
6. soccer ball \_\_\_\_\_
7. Juan's ties \_\_\_\_\_



# Talking about School

**Find the meaning. Follow the example.**



- |                              |                      |  |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1. parent-teacher conference | _____                | tells about a child's progress in school               |
| 2. parent coordinator        | _____                | a competition  |
| 3. NYC Family Guide          | _____                | having problems  |
| 4. report card               | _____ <b>1</b> _____ | a meeting between parents and teachers                 |
| 5. a contest                 | _____                | information for families in eight languages            |
| 6. nervous                   | _____                | a person who helps parents with questions about school |
| 7. having trouble            | _____                | anxious, worried, concerned                            |
| 8. get ready                 | _____                | prepare  |
| 9. get together              | _____                | meet with other people                                 |
| 10. get involved             | _____                | participate or take action                             |

# Talking about School

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



get involved • getting ready • getting together  
parent • school • ~~worried~~

**Juan:** Carmen, where were you? I was (1) worried.

**Carmen:** I met with the other parents. We are (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
for the parent-teacher conferences.

**Juan:** I keep telling you... Let the people at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
do their work. You are just a (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Carmen:** Exactly. And parents need to (5) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Juan, we are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ again on Saturday,  
and you should come.

**Juan:** Me?

**Carmen:** Yes, you!

# Talking about School

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



~~conferences~~ • decide • doesn't matter  
education • teacher

**Carmen:** Do you know what time it is? The (1) conferences are starting.

**Juan:** Carmen, take it easy.

**Carmen:** Are you coming or not?

**Juan:** I can't (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Carmen:** I'm leaving.

**Juan:** Wait! I can't decide. Which tie will the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ like?

**Carmen:** It (4) \_\_\_\_\_. You don't need to wear a tie. Let's go.

**Juan:** Carmen! This is important. This is our daughter's

(5) \_\_\_\_\_.

# Talking about School



You are **Carmen**. Talk about last year and this year. Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

- ask the teacher questions

*Last year, I couldn't ask the teacher questions.*

*This year, I can!*

- read the NYC Family Guide in English

*Last year,*

*This year,*

- understand my child's report card

*Last year,*

*This year,*

- help my daughter with her homework

*Last year,*

*This year,*

- get involved at my child's school

*Last year,*

*This year,*





## Good Question!

Put the words in order. Follow the example.

1. give • the parent coordinator • you • me • Can • the number of • ?

*Can you give me the number of the parent coordinator?*

2. my son • give • any extra reading • there • Is • I • can • ?

3. my son • help • How • I • can • with his reading • ?

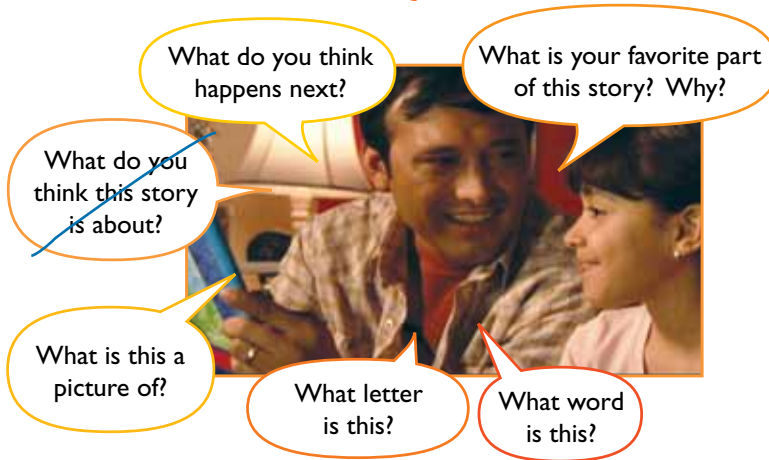
4. in Spanish • my daughter's • I • Can • report card • get • ?

5. his homework • my son • doing • every night • Is • ?

6. an interpreter • I • Can • have • ?

**Say the words out loud—like actors on TV!**

# Good Question!



**You are Juan. You are reading a story with your daughter. What can you say? Follow the example.**

1. You point to the cover of the book. You ask:

What do you think this story is about?



2. You point to a picture. You ask:

---

3. You point to a letter. You ask:

---

4. You point to a word. You ask:

---

5. You are in the middle of the story. You ask:

---

6. You finish the story. You ask:

---

# What Can You Say?



**What can you say? Follow the example.**

1. You are **Carmen**. Tell Fatima you want to take action.

*We must do something!*

---

2. You are **Carmen**. Tell Fatima you will call 311 immediately.

---

3. You are **Juan**. Tell Carmen to relax.

---

4. You are **Carmen**. Tell Juan it's not important which tie he wears.

---

5. You are **Carmen**. Tell Juan it's time to leave.

---

**You are an actor—say the words out loud.**

# What Can You Do?

Match the problem with the best solution. Follow the example.

## Problem

1. You couldn't understand very much at the parent-teacher conference last year.
2. You don't know the parent coordinator at your child's school.
3. You are worried about your child's reading.
4. You can't read a letter your child brought home from school.
5. Your child is not doing well in school.

## Solution

- A**
- **Call 311.**  
Ask: *Can I have the number of the parent coordinator at my child's school?*
  - **Visit the school or the school's website.**
- B**
- **Call the parent coordinator.**  
Ask: *Can I have an interpreter?*
  - **Practice asking questions with other parents.**
- C**
- **Call the parent coordinator.**  
Say: *I don't understand the letter.*  
Ask: *Can I have this letter in my language?*
- D**
- **Talk to the parent coordinator and teacher.**  
Ask: *What can I do to help my child? What more can the school do?*
  - **Go to the parent-teacher conferences.**
  - **Ask other parents what they do.**
- E**
- **Speak with your child's teacher.**  
Say: *I am worried about my child's reading.*  
Ask: *Is there any extra help for my child?*
  - **Read to your child every night.**



# Watch the Show

## Who says it?

Watch **Welcome Parents**. Listen carefully.  
Find out who says these lines.

Who says it?

1. "Sweet dreams."
2. "Think of the questions to ask the teacher and say them out loud. You have to practice, just like soccer."
3. "If you need an interpreter, just ask for one."
4. "Sometimes your daughter's homework is late, and sometimes she doesn't answer all of the questions. And sometimes, it's a mess!"
5. "Repeat that, Ming, like a movie star!"
6. "That year, I fell in love with my teacher."
7. "And the princess said, 'I want to play soccer!'"

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Carmen



Fatima



parent coordinator



Lupe



Pierre



Juan



Ming

# Watch the Show

## What's going on?

What do you think is going on in these pictures?



Watch **WE ARE NEW YORK • Welcome Parents**  
to find out what is going on.

Go to **[www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish)**.  
Or watch the show on TV.



# What You Can Do

## To Learn More English

- ✓ Get together with friends who are learning English, too. Watch **We Are New York** together. Do the exercises together.
- ✓ Read the story out loud with a friend—like actors on TV! It's a good way to learn.
- ✓ Take a free English class. Call 311 to get information, or go to **www.nyc.gov/AdultEducation** to find a program near you.
- ✓ Go to your local public library. To find the nearest library, call 311 or go to **www.nypl.org**, **www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org** or **www.queenslibrary.org**.
- ✓ If you have a high school diploma and want to improve your English and start college, go to **www.clip.cuny.edu** or **www.cuny.edu**.
- ✓ Make a list of words and expressions you learned from **Welcome Parents**.

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Visit the **We Are New York** website.

- Read the Study Guides.
- Practice your English.
- Watch videos of all the episodes.
- Read about your favorite characters!

**www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish**





# What You Can Do

## To Prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences



**Carmen**

Write down what you want to say.

**Fatima**

Get together with friends and practice asking questions.



**Pierre**

Take your notebook with you.



**Juan**

Don't forget your pen!



**Ming**

Repeat back what you hear.



**Sayeed**

Ask questions!

# What You Can Do

## To Get Involved in Your Child's Education

- **Read a story together** with your child every night. Visit the public library with your child.
- **Meet** your child's teachers and the school's parent coordinator. Call 311 to get the parent coordinator's telephone number.
- **Get** the NYC Family Guide from the parent coordinator.
- **Find out** what your child is learning in school. Go to: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics> and click on "Great Expectations Learning Guides."
- **See** your child's test scores. Visit: [www.arisparentlink.org](http://www.arisparentlink.org). Ask the parent coordinator if you need help.
- **Learn** more about New York City schools. Visit: [www.nyc.gov/schools/ParentsFamilies](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/ParentsFamilies).
- **Visit** [www.homeworknyc.org](http://www.homeworknyc.org) to help your child with homework.
- **Find out** how fathers can get more involved at: [www.nyc.gov/nycdads](http://www.nyc.gov/nycdads).



Go to [www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish). Learn more about helping your children in school. Get information in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.

## Dictionary: Translations of Key Words

English	Español	中文
1. get involved	participar	參與
2. get ready	prepararse	準備好
3. homework	tarea	家庭作業
4. interpreter	intérprete	翻譯員
5. notebook	cuaderno	筆記本
6. parent coordinator	coordinador de padres	家長專員
7. parent-teacher conference	reunión de padres y maestros	家長教師會議
8. to practice	practicar	練習
9. principal	director	校長
10. report card	boletín/reporte de calificaciones	成績報告卡

Русский	বাংলা	العربية
принимать участие	সম্পৃক্ত হওয়া	شارك
готовиться	তৈরি হওয়া	استعد
домашняя работа	বাড়ির কাজ	واجب منزلي
переводчик	দোভাষী	مترجم
тетрадь	নোটবুক	كراسة
координатор по работе с родителями	প্যারেন্ট কোঅর্ডিনেটর	منسق شؤون الآباء
встреча родителей с учителями	পিতামাতা-শিক্ষক বৈঠক	اجتماع الوالد والمعلم
практиковаться	অনুশীলন করা	يتمرن
директор	প্রিন্সিপ্যাল	مدير المدرسة
табель успеваемости	প্রতিবেদনপত্র	كشف الدرجات



# Dear Carmen

**Write a letter to Carmen.  
Ask her a question.  
Give her advice.  
Tell Carmen **your** story!**



*Dear Carmen,*

A large rectangular area with horizontal orange lines for writing.

*Sincerely yours,*

Send your letter to [www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish). Click on **Tell Us Your Story**.

Or mail your letter to:

**We Are New York** • P.O. Box 807 • New York, NY 10116

# Answers

## Pages 11-12

1. Carmen
2. Juan
3. Lupe
4. Lupe's teacher
5. Fatima
6. Sayeed
7. Pierre and Ming
8. parent coordinator

## Page 13

1. receives
2. says
3. is
4. calls
5. make an appointment
6. gives
7. get involved
8. meet
9. practice
10. doesn't think
11. convinces
12. asks

## Page 14

1. page 1
2. page 3
3. page 3
4. pages 5, 7
5. page 5
6. page 7
7. page 9

## Page 15

1. a meeting between parents and teachers
2. a person who helps parents with questions about school
3. information for families in eight languages
4. tells about a child's progress in school
5. a competition
6. anxious, worried, concerned
7. having problems
8. prepare
9. meet with other people
10. participate or take action

## Page 16

1. worried
2. getting ready
3. school
4. parent
5. get involved
6. getting together

## Page 17

1. conferences
2. decide
3. teacher

4. doesn't matter
5. education

## Page 18

1. Last year, I couldn't ask the teacher questions. This year, I can!
2. Last year, I couldn't read the NYC Family Guide in English. This year, I can!
3. Last year, I couldn't understand my child's report card. This year, I can!
4. Last year, I couldn't help my daughter with her homework. This year, I can!
5. Last year, I couldn't get involved at my child's school. This year, I can!

## Page 19

1. Can you give me the number of the parent coordinator?
2. Is there any extra reading I can give my son?
3. How can I help my son with his reading?
4. Can I get my daughter's report card in Spanish?
5. Is my son doing his homework every night?
6. Can I have an interpreter?

## Page 20

1. What do you think this story is about?
2. What is this a picture of?
3. What letter is this?
4. What word is this?
5. What do you think happens next?
6. What is your favorite part of the story? Why?

## Page 21

1. We must do something.
2. I will do it right now.
3. Take it easy.
4. It doesn't matter.
5. Let's go.

## Page 22

1. B
2. A
3. E
4. C
5. D

## Page 23: Watch the show for these answers.

1. Carmen
2. Juan
3. parent coordinator
4. Ming
5. Fatima
6. Pierre
7. Lupe

## Page 25: There are other correct answers.

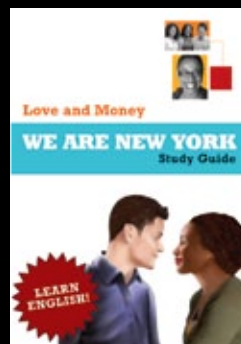
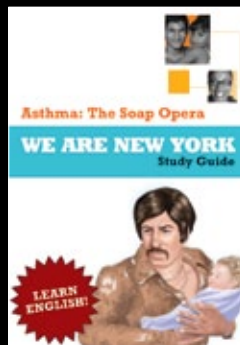
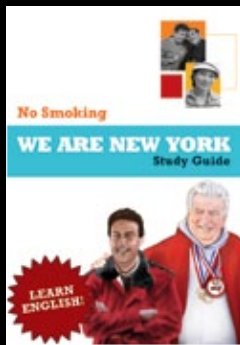
**School words:** homework, school, coordinator, teacher, conference

**Names:** Carmen, Juan, Fatima, Ming, Pierre

# WE ARE NEW YORK

Learn English with our stories

Watch all nine episodes on TV.  
Read the Study Guides.  
Practice your English.



[www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish)