

Parenting and Workplace Roles 13: Parenting in the United States

Intro Clip

Viviana: Come on, mom.

Martha: You can't stay out that late. Your curfew's ten o'clock.

Viviana: But it's Kim's birthday. Everyone is staying until midnight.

Martha: I said no.

Viviana: Why not, mom?

Martha: Because I said so and I'm your mother.

Viviana: Excuse me? Well, I'm going to Kim's party and I'm going to come home at midnight because I'm your daughter.

Martha: Listen to me, (inaudible)–

Narrator: Freeze! Aachoo! Hi. Sorry I interrupted. Rosalinda and I stayed out late last night. And I caught a nasty cold. Aachoo! Yes, I'm at my mother's house. She took care of me all night. This morning she had to go to work. You know, it's difficult to be a good parent. It takes patience, love and dedication.

In today's episode you will learn how important it is for parents and children to communicate. You will also learn about adjectives. Adjectives are words that describe things or people, for example, this Martha. She is a parent. Right now she is an angry parent. She is not a calm parent. Angry and calm are both adjectives. Easy isn't it? This is going to be a good lesson. Hey, good is also an adjective.

But now, let's get back to the story.

Story Start-Up Clip

Narrator: And action!

Martha: You're too young. I have too many things to worry about. The last thing I want is to worry about you staying out late. The answer is no. And that's final.

Viviana: But mom!

Martha: Now get ready for school! Your father will be here any minute and I'm almost late to work.

Viviana: Hi, dad.

Dad: What's the matter? Did you skip breakfast?

Viviana: No. Mom just doesn't get it.

Dad: Oh, I know that very well.

Viviana: I can go to Kim's birthday party, right?

Dad: Sure.

Viviana: And come home around midnight?

Dad: Midnight!

Viviana: What's the big deal?

Dad: No, no, no, no, no. I am not going to allow my daughter to stay out until midnight.

Viviana: Why not?

Dad: There are boys this party, right?

Viviana: Yeah.

Dad: Well, you are not ready to be with boys.

Viviana: How do you know?

Dad: Oh, I know. You are not going to Kim's party because I say so and I am your father.

Viviana: Oh great. Now I can't even go to the party.

Viviana: My parents just won't let me.

Friend: Why not?

Viviana: They both still think I'm 12 years old. They say I'm too young.

Friend: Too young? Hello! You're 17.

Viviana: My mom thinks I'll start dating then I'll leave school and have a baby like she did.

Friend: But your mom knows that you learned from her mistakes, doesn't she?

Viviana: No, she doesn't. We don't talk much or spend much time together anymore.

Friend: But she knows you're not going to leave school. I mean, you're a smart girl. You're Miss I-Never-Have-Any-Problems in school. Have you ever even been to the counselor's office?

Viviana: No.

Teacher: Viviana?

Viviana: Yes?

Teacher: You need to go to the counselor's office.

Friend: I guess there's a first time for everything. What did you do?

Viviana: I don't know.

Mr. Flores: Martha, sweetheart. You're a little late.

Martha: No. I am never late (inaudible).

Mr. Flores: Honey. I told you before. You don't have to take the bus. I am happy to drive you to work.

Martha: No, thank you (inaudible).

Mr. Flores: Please, baby. Don't call me (inaudible). We're a big happy family. Call me Corny.

Martha: Well, Corny, thank you for the offer, but I prefer taking the bus. And please, don't call me baby.

Mr. Flores: Oh, you're a difficult woman, Martita. I like that.

Martha: I'm a hard working woman. That's different.

Mr. Flores: Just remember, one day you will want a ride from me.

Martha: Just remember that I will never want a ride from you.

Mr. Flores: We'll see about that.

Friend: He asked you to call him Corny?

Martha: I don't think he knows what that means in English.

Friend: Hey, Martha, what's the matter?

Martha: I'm just so busy with work, bills, and now I'm having problems with Viviana.

Friend: Problems with Viviana? But she's a great student and a really nice kid.

Martha: That's the problem. She's not a kid anymore. And she never listens to me.

Friend: The same with my Juan Carlos. That's the problem with kids in this country. They don't listen to their parents.

Martha: I know. Viviana needs more discipline.

Friend: Send Viviana back to Mexico if she gives you trouble. I'm going to send Juan Carlos back to Mexico if he gives me problems.

Martha: I've been thinking about sending her to her grandmother. I'll miss her. But maybe it's best.

Friend: Yes, for her own good.

Life Skills clip

Mr. Marcus: Yeah, you know if we get that dance group, it's going to be a great festival. Yeah. Hold on. Come in.

Viviana: You wanted to see me?

Mr. Marcus: Yes, Viviana. Please have a seat.

Yeah, so you take of that, okay? Okay, bye.

Viviana: Am I in trouble?

Mr. Marcus: Trouble? No, you're not in trouble. Just the opposite. I want you to join our gifted program.

Viviana: Gifted program? But isn't that for really smart people?

Mr. Marcus: That's why I'm asking you.

Viviana: Really?

Mr. Marcus: Absolutely. You deserve it. Are you interested?

Viviana: I am! But, do I need my parents' permission?

Mr. Marcus: Yes, you do.

Viviana: I don't know. My mom is really mad at me right now. I don't think she'll give me permission.

Mr. Marcus: But won't she be happy to hear you're a good student? I'll tell you what. Let me handle it. Just tell her I want to talk to her, okay?

Viviana: Okay.

Mr. Marcus: Okay.

Viviana: Thanks, Mr. Marcus.

Mr. Marcus: Congratulations.

Viviana: Thank you.

Viviana: Dad, I have great news.

Dad: Your mom buying you a new car?

Viviana: No, dad. I'm going to be in the gifted program!

Dad: In what program?

Viviana: You know, it's for students who get really good grades or have special talents.

Dad: You mean, special classes.

Viviana: It's a great opportunity, dad. It will help me get into college later.

Dad: I don't think so, Viviana. Your friends will make fun of you if you join that program. It's a terrible idea.

Viviana: Well I think it's a great idea. I know mom will agree with me.

Dad: We'll see about that.

Viviana: Hey, mom.

Martha: Hi, Viviana. How was school?

Viviana: Good, mom. My counselor, Mr. Marcus, called me in today. He wants to talk to you.

Martha: Wants to talk to me? What did you do?

Viviana: What do you mean what did I do?

Martha: You did something.

Viviana: I was picked to be in a special gifted program, mom. Why do you always think I did something wrong? Why can't you think I did something right for a change?

Martha: Don't disrespect your mother! Viviana! Viviana! That's it. That's it!

Dora: Ola, Martha. What are you doing?

Martha: Dora. Viviana's in big trouble.

Dora: Oh no, really?

Martha: Yes. I think I'll have to send her to Mexico. I need to ask you for a favor.

Dora: Sure, what is it?

Martha: Please tell Mr. Cook I won't be there tomorrow because I need to go to Viviana's school.

Dora: No problem.

Martha: Thank you.

Dora: Bye.

Woman: Here you go.

Martha: Excuse me. I want to take my daughter out of school. What office do I go to?

Woman: The attendance counter is right over there.

Martha: Thank you.

Mr. Marcus: Ms. Cardone?

Martha: Hm?

Mr. Marcus: Oh, it's good to see you. But it wasn't necessary for you to come here. We could have talked over the phone.

Martha: I didn't come here to talk to you, Mr. Marcus. I came to take my daughter out of school.

Mr. Marcus: What? Why?

Martha: Mr. Marcus. Living in the United States has made her disrespectful. I'm sending her back to Mexico to stay with her grandmother. That way she'll learn to respect me.

Mr. Marcus: Ms. Cardona, I don't believe Viviana is disrespectful. She's a very smart and independent young woman. She likes to do things her own way but—

Martha: Exactly. I can't allow that.

Mr. Marcus: Ms. Cardona, I understand how you feel. Please. Viviana is one of eight students we want for our gifted program. This is a fantastic opportunity for her. Please! Don't take her out of school. Give your daughter that chance.

Narrator: And freeze!

Grammar clip

Narrator: Wow. Do you think Martha will send Viviana back to Mexico or will she allow her daughter to go into the gifted program? Aachoo! We'll find out soon. But first, let's do today's lesson.

Adjectives describe nouns, for example, my mother is a beautiful and smart woman. Hehehe. Here are some other examples. Watch and listen.

She knows you're not going to leave school. I mean, you're a smart girl.

Oh, you're a difficult woman, Martita.

I'm a hard working woman.

She's a great student and a really nice kid.

Narrator: Good job.

Making Choices - A Clip

Narrator: Now let's get back to our exciting story. Exciting is an adjective and story is a noun. And action!

Martha: Mr. Marcus, I appreciate your concern for my daughter. Maybe she is a gifted student but she's also a disrespectful daughter. I'm sending Viviana back to Mexico.

Martha: Excuse me.

Woman: May I help you?

Viviana: Mom! Mom! How can you check me out of school?

Martha: I've had enough. You disrespect me. You disobey me. That's it! I'm sending you back to Mexico. Vamanos.

Viviana: Back to Mexico?! Fine. If you don't want to see me again, I promise you won't ever see me again!

Martha: Viviana! Viviana! Oh, my gosh she drives me crazy.

Police officer: I'm so sorry, Ms. Cardona. We've looked everywhere but we can't find your daughter.

Martha: God. It's been more than a week.

Police officer: We'll keep trying but I can't promise anything.

Martha: Oh, Viviana, please come back. I'm so sorry. [Crying]

Narrator: This is not a good situation. Viviana is gone and Martha is miserable.

Making Choices - B Clip

Narrator: Let's give Martha another chance, okay? And action!

Martha: So, Mr. Marcus, what exactly is this gifted program all about?

Mr. Marcus: Great. Step into my office and I'll tell you all about it.

Martha: Okay.

Mr. Marcus: She will take advanced courses and get work experience.

Martha: Work experience?

Mr. Marcus: Yes, that's right. She'll learn about important topics of the work environment. That's my class. She'll even help the community like volunteer at the library, bring food to the homeless and even teach people to read and write.

Viviana: Well, I'd love to help teach people to read and write.

Martha: That is nice.

Mr. Marcus: This helps our students when they go to college.

Martha: College? College, Viviana?

Mr. Marcus: Viviana is a very bright young woman. You should be very proud.

Martha: I am so sorry, Viviana. I had no idea.

Viviana: I'm sorry, too. We need to talk more.

Martha: You're right. I've just been so busy with my own things. I forgot what's really important. I promise from now on we will talk, a lot.

Viviana: And since we're talking, can I go to Kim's party and stay until midnight?

Martha: Don't push it.

Mr. Marcus: I'm telling you.

Viviana: Okay, mom.

Mr. Flores: Martha, Martha. You don't need to put that on, you know.

Martha: Why not?

Mr. Flores: Because you're fired!

Review and Summary

Narrator: Fired?! Oh! Can this be true? We'll find out in our next episode. In the meantime, remember, good parents always talk with their children. We will see you next time here on English for All. Right now, I'm going to try this special remedy my mother gave me.

Parenting and Workplace Roles 14: Women's Changing Roles

Intro Clip

Narrator: Welcome back to English for All. Today's lesson is about women's changing roles. Women do different things today than in the past. You will also learn how to use adverbs of frequency, which describe how often we do things. These are words like always, often, sometimes, seldom and never.

Now remember what happened to Martha in the last episode? She was fired from her job. Well, let's see what happens.

Story Start-Up Clip

Mr. Flores: Because you're fired!

Martha: Is this a joke?

Mr. Flores: Oh no. It's no joke. Let's see you were absent yesterday. You missed work. You're fired.

Martha: I didn't come in yesterday because I went to my daughter's school to talk to her counselor.

Mr. Flores: That's so sweet. But sorry. You're still fired.

Martha: Mr. Cook gave me permission.

Mr. Flores: Well maybe Mr. Cook gave you permission but— Good morning, Mr. Cook.

Mr. Cook: What seems to be the problem here, Mr. Flores?

Mr. Flores: I was letting Martha go.

Mr. Cook: Letting her go? Where?

Mr. Flores: I'm firing her, sir.

Mr. Cook: Firing her? Why?

Mr. Flores: Because she didn't come to work yesterday.

Mr. Cook: But I gave her permission to take the day off. Didn't Dora give you the message?

Mr. Flores: Oh, you see. I thought Dora was taking the day off.

Mr. Cook: No, Mr. Flores. Martha here is one of our best workers. If she takes the day off, she has a reason. Now let's get back to work.

Mr. Flores: Yes, sir.

Martha: Thank you.

Friend: You're lucky Mr. Cook was there.

Martha: Can you believe Cornelio did that?

Friend: We have to be careful, Martha. Sometimes Cornelio is very strange.

Martha: I know.

Friend: Hey, so how did it go with Viviana yesterday?

Martha: Oh, it was wonderful. I met with her counselor, Mr. Marcus, and she is now in a special program for excellent students.

Friend: So is Juan Carlos!

Martha: They're probably in the same class. Oh, I knew our kids were smart.

Friend: See? And you wanted to send Viviana back to Mexico.

Martha: [Laughs]

Viviana: It's so great you're in this class too.

Friend: I know. Do you know who else is in it? Juan Carlos.

Viviana: True.

Friend: I think we're going to like this class.

Juan Carlos: Hi, Viviana.

Viviana: Hi, Juan Carlos.

Juan Carlos: So, you're in this class too?

Viviana: Yes.

Juan Carlos: I'm surprised. I thought this class was for guys only. [Laughs]

Vivian: What do you mean by that?

Juan Carlos: Never mind.

Viviana: No, wait. Are you saying that women aren't smart enough to take this class?

Mr. Marcus: Good morning. Welcome. Congratulations. This is the work experience seminar for the gifted program. We will discuss important everyday topics such as work issues and newsworthy events.

Oh, before I forget, I want to give you these forms for your parents to fill out and return them as soon as possible.

Viviana: Wow. Why so many forms?

Mr. Marcus: We need these forms to keep track of everything.

Viviana: My mom is not going to like this.

Ben: I can't help you! I can't help you! What do you mean I can't help you?

Bob: Sorry, Ben. This company can't afford irresponsible workers.

Ben: I am not irresponsible.

Bob: Let's see. First, you're always late and you often leave early.

Ben: Often?

Bob: Yes. Three times last week. Second, you seldom do your paperwork right. Third, sometimes this job requires you to wear a hardhat. You never wear one.

Ben: Hardhat. Oh, those things look funny. Besides, I don't need one. I am always careful.

Bob: Sorry, Ben. You can't make up your own rules. I have to let you go.

Ben: Oh, come on, Bob. Give me one more chance. I have a lot of bills to pay and a daughter to support.

Bob: Sorry. You've had many chances already. You can pick up your check on the way out.

Ben: What is this? An eviction notice! I have to move out in 30 days? [Growl]

Life Skills Clip

Viviana: Here mom, some more bills.

Martha: Oh no. I just don't have enough time to take care of everything.

Viviana: Oh, and before I forget, Mr. Marcus said you need to fill out these forms.

Martha: Great. I just won't sleep tonight.

Viviana: Mom, I can help you if you'd like.

Martha: That's okay, honey. I'll find time. You worry about school.

Dad: What's the matter today?

Viviana: Mama's really having a hard time right now.

Dad: Money problems?

Viviana: It's not the money. She doesn't have time to deal with work, house problems, bills, plus me. It's too much.

Dad: You're the genius in the family. Why don't you help her?

Viviana: I help when I can but I'm in school. If only she had more time.

Dad: Time. Okay.

Viviana: Bye, Dad.

Martha: Hello?

Ben: Hello, Martha, it's Ben Hameen.

Martha: Ben Hameen. What can I do for you?

Ben: Martita, I need to talk to you. Will you meet me after work?

Martha: Why?

Ben: It's really important.

Martha: No, Ben Hameen.

Ben: Say yes, Martha. I also really want to see you.

Martha: All right. Where?

Ben: Our favorite place. You remember?

Martha: Yeah, I remember. What time?

Ben: Six o'clock?

Martha: Fine.

Martha: Okay, Ben Hameen Alfonso. What's this about?

Ben: Viviana has told me about the bills and the house. And she says you are really busy and—

Martha: We don't need money, Ben Hameen.

Ben: Oh I know. I know. It's time. You need more time and there aren't enough hours in the day.

Martha: True. It is hard sometimes.

Ben: Let me help. Listen. I'm about to buy a new house and--and the lease is up on my apartment. Why don't you let me move in with you just for a couple of months and I'll help you.

Martha: Move in? I don't think so.

Ben: Oh, come on, Martha. Why not? It's just for a few months. Listen, I promise I will cook. I'll make sure all of your bills are paid and I'll even keep the house clean.

Narrator: And freeze!

Grammar Clip

Narrator: What do you think Martha will do? Will she let Ben Hameen move back into her home? Hm. Before we find out, let's learn about adverbs.

An adverb is a word that adds meaning to the verb. The verb is the action word. Adverbs of frequency tell us how often or how many times an action happens. Look at this chart. When we say always, we mean the action happens all the time or 100% of the time. Watch and listen.

I am always careful.

When we say often we mean many times or 70% to 80% of the time.

And you often leave early.

Often?

Yes. Three times last week.

The adverb sometimes means the action or situation happens about half of the time or about 50% of the time. Take a look.

Sometimes Cornelio is very strange.

When we say seldom we mean almost never or 10% to 20% of the time. And when we say never we mean zero percent of the time. Listen closely.

Second, you seldom do your paperwork right.

You never wear one.

Good job.

Making Choices – A Clip

Narrator: Now, let's get back to our story and see what Martha decides.
And action!

Martha: Okay, Ben Hameen. Maybe it will be all right. I can use some help. You can move in as soon as you are ready. But don't get any ideas.

Ben: TV dinner again?

Martha: I don't have time to cook, Ben Hameen. I thought you said you would do some of the cooking.

Ben: All right, all right. Just bring me another beer then.

Martha: No. Get your own beer. I need to make a phone call.

Ben: Hey, what happened?

Martha: The phone's dead. What's going on?

Viviana: Dad, did you mail the bills?

Martha: Yes, Ben Hameen. Did you mail all the bills?

Ben: Ah, no. What's the big deal? It's only been two months. Okay, maybe three. It's not like they'll shut off the electricity or anything, huh? [bzzz] Uh oh.

Martha: Ben Hameen Alfonso. Get out! Get out! Don't come back!

Narrator: Yikes! That's terrible.

Making Choices – B Clip

Narrator: . I think Martha deserves another chance. Okay, let's see what happens.And action!

Martha: What? You think I need someone to take care of me? Someone like you? You didn't take care of me before. What has changed? If you want to take care of me and Viviana, do it from your own apartment.

Ben: Come on.

Martha: You think you can solve my problems? Well, I've been solving problems for a very long time and when times get tough, Viviana and I get tougher. So thank you for your kind offer but forget it.

Vivian: Back so soon?

Martha: You know your father.

Viviana: I'm sorry, Mom.

Martha: That's okay.

[Knock on door]

Martha: Now what does he want? Ben Hameen, I don't want–

Cornelio: Is this a bad time?

Review and Summary

Narrator: Oh my! Why did Cornelio come to see Martha? You'll have to see the next episode. Let's review. Today we learned that women's roles are changing. Women do a lot more than they used to at home and in the workplace.

We also learned about adverbs of frequency, words that tell us how often an action happens. Now, remember to practice, practice, practice your English and we'll see you next time here on English for All!

Parenting and Workplace Roles 15: Women's Work Issues

Intro Clip

Narrator: Happen, happening, happiness, happy—oh, hello. Give me just one second. Oh, here is it. Harass. To annoy persistently. Hm. That means to bother someone all the time. I looked up the meaning of this important word because today we will learn about women's work issues and sexual harassment.

We will also learn to use adverbs of manner. These are adverbs that tell us how we do something, so listen carefully and watch closely.

Story Start-Up Clip

Cornelio: These are for you.

Martha: What?

Cornelio: Would you like to have dinner with me?

Martha: No, thank you. Why are you doing this?

Cornelio: Martita, you know how I feel about you. I want us to be friends. I want us to be good friends.

Martha: You are strange, Cornelio. You just tried to fire me the other day. Now you want to be friends?

Cornelio: Oh that. Let's not talk about the past. Let's talk about now. And you know I want you to call me Corny.

Martha: Well, Corny, I don't think it's proper for you to come to my house without an invitation.

Cornelio: Martita, I just wanted to surprise you.

Martha: We are coworkers. We're not friends.

Cornelio: But we can be, if you're just a little nice to me.

Martha: I don't think so. Now I have to go, Cornelio. Goodbye.

Cornelio: Martita, but—

Vivian: Who was that?

Martha: Oh, that was the famous Corny Flowers.

Vivian: I think he likes you, Mom. [Giggles]

Martha: Finish your homework.

Mr. Cook: Good morning everyone. I just wanted to let you know that Mr. Flores will be passing out new order forms today. Now, these forms have new instructions which will help us reach our goal of 1,000 orders per week. So please read them carefully. And keep up the good work.

Cornelio: Hi, Martita. These are your new orders. It looks like you're going to have to work extra hard.

Martha: I always work diligently.

Cornelio: Ooh. Diligently.

Martha: In case you don't know, diligently means extra hard.

Cornelio: I knew that.

Martha: Can I have the orders, please?

Cornelio: That's may I have the orders not can I have the orders, Ms. I-Always-Work-Diligently. Here they are.

Mr. Marcus: So Juan Carlos, you're going to volunteer at the homeless shelter, huh?

Juan Carlos: Yes, Mr. Marcus.

Mr. Marcus: That's great. And what about you, Viviana?

Viviana: I like the literacy program. I want to help people learn to read and write.

Mr. Marcus: Ah, that's wonderful, wonderful. Now that we're all here, let's discuss something that's been in the news lately. Sexual harassment.

Martha: Cornelio, I'm busy. What do you want?

Cornelio: You need to fill out your absence report.

Martha: Can't I do it later? I need to finish the orders.

Cornelio: Mr. Cook wants it now. Of course, if you don't want to do it, then I can report you.

Mr. Marcus: Sexual harassment can mean a number of things, like invading someone's personal space or standing too close to someone, or making unwanted sexual advances or comments.

Juan Carlos: Oh come on. Girls like it when guys do that.

Viviana: That's not true.

Martha: Here's my absence report.

Cornelio: Hmm, honey. You're looking very sexy right now. I like it when you work hard. How would you like to join me for lunch?

Martha: I am not hungry, Cornelio, thank you. And I told you before, my name is Martha.

Cornelio: Okay, Martititita.

Juan Carlos: Of course it's true.

Mr. Marcus: Do all girls like that type of attention?

Juan Carlos: Of course they do.

Girl: No we don't.

Viviana: You think it's the only way to get our attention.

Girl: You can't get our attention that way, I promise.

Juan Carlos: Very funny. You like it and you know it.

Mr. Marcus: This may come as a surprise to you, Juan Carlos, but that kind of behavior could get you fired or put you in jail. Sexual harassment is a serious crime.

Viviana: Well can a man be sexually harassed?

Mr. Marcus: Yes. Sexual harassment victims can be both male or female.

Viviana: What do you do? Who do you call when you've been a victim of sexual harassment?

Mr. Marcus: Well, most companies have policies against sexual harassment.

Viviana: But what if it's the boss that's guilty of sexual harassment?

Mr. Marcus: Then you should report it to that person's boss. Also, there are a number of public agencies and Legal Aid foundations you can go to. And if you see it happen, you should report it.

Cornelio: Let me see your orders. Did you miss me? Do all the boxes have the same content?

Martha: Of course.

Cornelio: Then they're all wrong.

Martha: What?!

Cornelio: Look, you're missing three other items and the sequence is not right.

Martha: That's impossible. I counted them twice. I don't understand.

Cornelio: You need to work more diligently Martha. I should report you to Mr. Cook.

Martha: What?!

Cornelio: But if you meet me for dinner tonight, I could forget all about it.

Martha: Listen, Cornelio, I don't like you and I will never like you. You are a despicable human being. And I will never go out with you even if I lose my job.

Life Skills Clip

Viviana: Hi, Mom.

Martha: Hi.

Viviana: What's wrong, Mom?

Martha: I had a hard day at work. Cornelio kept on bothering me and I couldn't think. I filled out all the orders incorrectly.

Viviana: You filled the orders incorrectly. You never do that.

Martha: I know.

Viviana: You said Cornelio was bothering you. What was he doing?

Martha: He was having fun with me. He was calling me names like honey, sweetheart. He was standing right next to me. I felt so uncomfortable. I couldn't concentrate.

Viviana: That's sexual harassment. He can't treat you like that.

Martha: Cornelio's mad because I don't pay attention to him.

Viviana: It doesn't matter why he's mad. He's wrong and you have to do something about it and fast.

Martha: What can I do? He's my boss. I'll get fired.

Viviana: Talk to his boss. Cornelio is the one who will be fired. This can't go on. This has to stop.

Martha: Maybe you're right.

Cornelio: That's right, Mr. Cook.

Mr. Cook: Hm. Ah, come in Ms. Cardona. I wanted to talk to you.

Martha: I need to talk to you too, sir.

Mr. Cook: It seems that Mr. Flores here wants to file a formal complaint against you.

Martha: Against me? Why?

Mr. Cook: [Ahem] Sexual harassment.

Martha: Me? Sexual harassment?

Cornelio: That's right. After all of your mistakes yesterday, you asked me to hide them in exchange for sexual favors.

Martha: You no good—!

Mr. Cook: Now, now, let's not get excited. Just calm down.

Intercom: Mr. Cook. You're needed on the floor right away.

Mr. Cook: Can it wait a moment?

Intercom: No, Mr. Cook. Right away.

Mr. Cook: I'll be right there. I can't leave these people. I'll be right back.

Cornelio: Sure, Mr. Cook.

Martha: Oh, you are—

Cornelio: Ah, ah, ah. Who is smiling now, my dear Martita? Oh don't look so upset. I'll tell you what. I'll make a deal with you. You go out with me and I'll drop the charges.

Martha: And if I don't?

Cornelio: If you don't, well, if you don't then I'll file a complaint and you'll lose your job. Oh brilliant idea!

Martha: I will fight you.

Cornelio: Fight me? Fight what? Huh? You have nothing. Nothing. Who do you think Mr. Cook is going to believe? Me or you?

Martha: If I go out with you, what will you tell Mr. Cook?

Cornelio: Ah, Mr. Cook, Mr. Cook. I'll just tell him everything was a misunderstanding. So, do we have a deal?

Narrator: And freeze!

Narrator: Ew, can you believe this guy? Do you think Martha will go out with him? Before we continue, let's talk about adverbs of manner.

Adverbs of manner tell us how an action is done, for example, this is a special get well potion for my mother. I will drink it slowly. The adverb slowly tells us how I'm drinking the potion. Now, I will drink it quickly. Ew! Quickly is an adverb too. Let's look at other examples.

I always work diligently.

You filled the orders incorrectly.

That was very easy, right?

Making Choices – A Clip

Narrator: Now let's see what Martha decides. And action!

Cornelio: Well, do we have a deal?

Martha: Okay, Cornelio. You win. I will go out to dinner with you. But, we're just having dinner, nothing else.

Cornelio: Of course. Only dinner.

Cornelio: That was good, huh? Come on, Martita. How about a little kiss?

Martha: No, Cornelio. You said dinner only.

Cornelio: Yeah, dinner only and now it's time for dessert.

Martha: No, Cornelio!

Cornelio: If you don't give me a little kiss, I will file that complaint against you.

Martha: I don't care! Leave me alone. Don't you ever touch me again!

Cornelio: Okay. Fine. Here.

Martha: What's this?

Cornelio: I am suing you for everything you have because nobody says no to Corny Flowers.

Narrator: Poor Martha.

Making Choices – B Clip

Narrator: Let's give her another chance. And action!

Martha: If I go out with you, what will you tell Mr. Cook?

Cornelio: Ah, Mr. Cook, Mr. Cook. I'll just tell him everything was a misunderstanding. So, do we have a deal?

Martha: No. No deal.

Cornelio: No deal? Fine. Then I will file a complaint and you can kiss your job bye-bye. Oh, Corny, that's great.

Martha: Why do you do this, Cornelio?

Cornelio: Because nobody says no to Corny Flowers.

Martha: Oooh. But you lied. I never harassed you.

Cornelio: I know. That was a good one. And the best part is you didn't make a mistake with your orders yesterday. I changed them at the last minute. And that old goat, Mr. Cook, didn't even notice. Oh Corny. You're so brilliant! Corny Flowers is a brilliant man!

Martha: I don't believe this. So you mean you set me up?

Cornelio: Yes! But that doesn't matter now because I have you. I have you right where I want.

Oh, hello Mr. Cook. Martha and I were just—

Mr. Cook: Save it, Mr. Flores. This 'old goat' heard everything. I only have two things to say. You're fired! And you have exactly five minutes to leave.

Martha: I will file a complaint against you. And you'll have to answer to a judge. Bye-bye.

Martha: Oh, Mr. Cook heard everything.

Viviana: Oh.

Martha: Corny Flowers didn't know what to say.

Viviana: That's great, Mom.

Martha: Oh, you should have been there. So tell me, how's the class?

Viviana: The class is great. But some of the boys, including Juan Carlos, seem to think that girls are only good for staying home with babies.

Martha: Uh, boys. Maybe they'll learn something by the end of the class.

Viviana: I hope so. It's so frustrating.

[Phone rings]

Viviana: I'll get it.

Martha: I got it. Hello?

Mr. Cook: Ms. Cardona? It's Mr. Cook.

Martha: Hi.

Mr. Cook: I need to see you first thing tomorrow. It's about your job.

Review and Summary

Narrator: Why do you think Mr. Cook wants to talk to Martha? Well, we'll have to find out in the next episode. In the meantime, remember that sexual harassment is a serious problem and should always be reported. If you don't feel safe reporting it at work, you can report it to one of your local or national sexual harassment hotlines. You can find the numbers on the Internet or in your phone book.

Also, don't forget to practice your adverbs. Practice them constantly. There, I just said one. Constantly.

Okay, well, it's time for my nap. That get well potion made me very sleepy. [Yawn] Well, bye for now. We'll see you next time on English for All!

Parenting and Workplace Roles 16: Women's in Non-Traditional Roles

Intro Clip

Narrator: [Laughs] I finally feel healthy again! That potion my mother gave me really worked. And now I am very hungry. Luckily I have these cookies. The red cookie is very good. And the orange is cookie is better. But this purple cookie is the best.

Today you will learn about comparing things or people. Let's see. Hm. Let me give you an example. This cookie is big. This cookie is bigger than this cookie. But this cookie is the biggest cookie of them all.

Well, let's get back to our story where you will learn about women in non-traditional roles. Pay close attention.

Story Start-Up Clip

Mr. Cook: Ms. Cardona, you do very well as head of your line.

Martha: Thank you.

Mr. Cook: But now that Mr. Flores is gone, I want to offer you his position, manager of the assembly line. Are you interested?

Martha: Me? Wow.

Mr. Cook: I must tell you, Ms. Cardona, this is not an easy job. As the manager, you'll have to keep schedules, handle accounts, talk to people who are having problems.

Martha: A line worker has an easier job than a manager but I think I'm ready.

Mr. Cook: I think so too.

Martha: Oh, thank you so much Mr. Cook.

Mr. Marcus: Throughout history most men went to work and provided support for the family. Women on the other hand stayed at home and raised the children. We call these traditional roles.

Juan Carlos: What's wrong with that?

Mr. Marcus: Things have changed now. More and more women do things men used to do. Many work at full time jobs. They participate in politics and have positions of leadership. Can anybody tell me the meaning of leadership?

Juan Carlos: Someone who tells people what to do.

Viviana: Someone who's smart and brave?

Girl: How about someone who makes difficult decisions?

Mr. Cook: Okay, you know that in the last two weeks the orders have become more complicated.

Martha: I know. When we fill orders, we need to be more careful.

Mr. Cook: Yes, and I'm afraid there's one worker who's not careful. I need you to talk to her.

Martha: No problem. For me talking to the workers is the easiest thing to do.

Mr. Cook: Well, this may be the hardest thing to do. You may have to fire her.

Martha: Fire her? Dora?

Mr. Marcus: Good leaders must make difficult decisions. But let me ask you this. Can anyone be a leader?

Juan Carlos: Sure. Any guy can be a boss.

Viviana: Any guy?

Girl: What about women?

Mr. Marcus: Yes, what about women, Mr. Gomez.

Juan Carlos: Come on, Mr. Marcus. Women leaders? Are you kidding? Girls are too emotional. They can't handle stressful situations.

Boy: They cry too much.

Viviana: You are joking, right?

Juan Carlos: No. Look at the facts. Have we had a woman president? No. How about most companies? Who do you think runs them? Not women.

Martha: Hi, Dora.

Dora: Hi, Martha. I love it that you're the new boss.

Martha: Well, I wanted to talk to you about your numbers. You're not putting together enough orders in one day.

Dora: Why are you picking on me? Just because you're the new boss? I'm not the slowest worker. Alexander is slower than me and I know I'm as good as Helen.

Martha: Well, I have to make sure everyone is doing their numbers. I want to help you as much as I can. So tell me, what's the problem? Why are your numbers low? Dora, I know I can help you work a little faster. But you have to tell me what the problem is.

Dora: What, you think just because you're the new boss you're better than me? I don't have to tell you anything. I don't work quickly and I don't work slowly. I just work.

Viviana: I can't believe I'm hearing this. What's wrong with you?

Girl: Juan Carlos, did you know that Viviana's mom is the head of her entire assembly line?

Juan Carlos: And she's probably really good, right?

Viviana: Yes, she is.

Juan Carlos: Head of the assembly line. Big deal, but could she be a manager? I don't think so.

Mr. Marcus: Okay, you guys. Class is over. We'll pick this up next time.

Juan Carlos: Well, no girl's every going to be my boss. That's for sure.

Viviana: I can't believe I ever liked Juan Carlos.

Girl: I can't believe I ever liked Drew.

Life Skills Clip

Mr. Cook: I know that firing your best friend is not the easiest thing in the world. But as a manager, sometimes you have to do whatever it takes. This is a business, Ms. Cardona, and businesses make money. Your job is to see that this business makes a lot of money.

Martha: I understand. But since we handed out the new instructions, something happened. Dora is much slower now. I tried talking to her but she won't tell me what the problem is.

Mr. Cook: I'm sorry. But this business can't wait for people who can't adapt to change. You either produce or you're out. Is that clear, Ms. Cardona?

Martha: I understand.

Mr. Cook: If Dora doesn't improve by the end of the day tomorrow, you'll have to fire her.

Martha: Yes, sir.

Juan Carlos: Hello?

Martha: Juan Carlos. Hi, it's Martha.

Juan Carlos: Hi, Ms. Cardona.

Martha: How's that class you're in with Viviana? She said you guys are enjoying it.

Juan Carlos: Yeah, it's all right.

Martha: Great. Is your mother in?

Juan Carlos: Yeah, just one second. Mom?

Dora: Hello.

Martha: Dora, it's me. Listen, you have to tell me what's wrong.

Dora: Martha, I just need a little more time with the new orders.

Martha: But the new orders aren't very difficult. I know that's not it. You have to tell me.

Dora: Martha, I have to go.

Juan Carlos: What's going on, Mom?

Dora: Nothing sweetheart. Don't worry about it.

Mr. Cook: Well, the figures are in, Ms. Cardona. I'm afraid Dora didn't make it.

Martha: If you just give me a little more time, I—

Mr. Cook: Ms. Cardona, you must fire Dora at once. That's your job.

Dora: You wanted to see me, Mr. Cook?

Mr. Cook: Yes, Dora, have a seat.

Martha: Hi, Dora.

Mr. Cook: Well, what are you going to do, Ms. Cardona?

Narrator: And freeze!

Grammar Clip

Narrator: Do you think Martha will fire Dora? Before we find out, let's compare these two cookies. If they are the same size, you compare them by saying this cookie is as big as this cookie. I'm saying these cookies are the same size. Let's look at another example.

And I know I'm as good as Helen.

This means Dora thinks she works the same as Helen. Now, if the cookies are different sizes, you compare them by saying this cookie is bigger than this one. You add an 'er' to the adjective for comparison. Let's look at another example.

A line worker has an easier job than a manager.

Now, to say that one cookie is special and unique, you use superlative adjectives. This cookie is the biggest one. You add 'est' to the one that is unique. Let's watch another example.

For me, talking to workers is the easiest thing to do.

Well, this may be the hardest thing to do.

Easy, right?

Making Choices – A Clip

Narrator: Now, let's go back to our story and see what Martha decides. Ready and action!

Martha: Dora? I am very sorry but you can't work here anymore.

Dora: I knew this was coming. I just didn't expect it from you. Thanks for nothing.

Mr. Cook: Well, that's done. Now, I'd like you to check out Alexander.

Martha: Alexander?

Mr. Cook: Yes, I believe he's the slowest one on the line now.

Martha: Hi Helen.

Hi, Alexander. Let me see your orders, please.

Alexander: What? You're going to fire me too?

Martha: No, Alexander.

Mr. Cook: Well, in the last two weeks production is down almost 50%. That's too much. You know I put you in this management position to increase numbers. What's going on?

Martha: I know. I don't think I'm right for this job. I'm not a leader. I think I want my old job again.

Mr. Cook: Well now that's a problem. There are no more positions available.

Martha: What do you mean?

Mr. Cook: Well I'm afraid you just can't work for this company anymore.

Narrator: Wow. That's not a good situation for Martha. She needs her job

Making Choices – B Clip

Narrator: . Let's see what happens when Martha makes a different decision.

And Action!

Mr. Cook: Well, what are you going to do, Ms. Cardona?

Martha: I will not fire Dora.

Mr. Cook: Excuse me?

Martha: Mr. Cook, with all due respect, Dora's a very good worker. And I believe I can get her to do her job better. But we need a little more time.

Mr. Cook: Ms. Cardona, I've told you, this is a business.

Martha: Yes, I know the purpose of this company is to make money. I understand. But this company needs people, good people, loyal people like Dora. Companies make more money with good, loyal employees.

Mr. Cook: What are you asking?

Martha: Give us three weeks.

Mr. Cook: Three weeks?

Martha: Yes. In that time we promise we will meet and exceed the numbers for the company.

Mr. Cook: Well, that's very ambitious. I like it. But, what if you fail, huh?

Martha: We will not fail. But, if we do, we promise we will both go.

Mr. Cook: Hm. Okay. Three weeks but no more.

Martha: All right.

Dora: Thank you, Mr. Cook.

Martha: Thank you so much, Mr. Cook.

Martha: Dora, you must tell me what the problem is. Now it's both of our jobs.

Dora: I don't want to talk about it.

Martha: Dora, please. We are friends. I know something happened when we got the new instructions. Now tell me, what happened?

Dora: It takes me a long time to read the new orders.

Martha: I know that. Why?

Dora: Because I can't read.

Martha: What?

Dora: I can't read, okay? I'm illiterate.

Martha: Viviana, I have a question about that literacy project you are a part of.

Viviana: Yes, Mom, it starts next month.

Martha: How would you like to start a little sooner?

Viviana: What do you mean?

Dora: A.

Viviana: B.

Dora: B.

Viviana: C.

Dora: C.

Viviana: D.

Dora: D.

Dora: Fate. Mate. Fat. Fit. Two 21" wooden legs. One pack of rubber feet. One pack of metal tacks.
One pack of three inch screws!

Viviana: Oh congratulations! You did it!

Dora: Oh, thanks to you. Oh, thank you!

Viviana: Juan Carlos, hi, come in.

Juan Carlos: That's okay. I'm just here to pick up my Mom.

Dora: Oh! I can read! Honey, I can read! Oh! Oh, thank you, Viviana, thank you! Oh, I am so grateful.
Thank you, thank you!

Martha: How are you guys doing? Good job, you guys, excellent! Continue.

How are you doing, Dora?

Dora: It's working. I'm reading! 998, 999, 1000! 1001, 1002, 1003!!

[Clapping and screaming]

Mr. Cook: I love these numbers. They're great!

Martha: Thank you, Mr. Cook.

Mr. Cook: So, what was the problem with Dora?

Martha: Hmm, she just needed a little help. That's all.

Mr. Cook: Hmm. Well, you certainly proved me wrong. You know, I need more of that around here. I want to thank you, Ms. Cardona, for all your hard work. Keep it up.

Martha: Absolutely.

Juan Carlos: Viviana? Did you get the note I sent you?

Viviana: Yeah, I got it. What do you want?

Juan Carlos: Can I talk to you for a second?

Viviana: I'll just talk to you tomorrow, okay?

Girl: Sure.

Juan Carlos: I want to thank you for helping my Mom.

Viviana: Yeah?

Juan Carlos: Yeah. And I'm really sorry about all those things I said about your Mom and that women can't be good leaders. I was wrong. And your mom, she's a great boss. She saved my mom's job.

Viviana: Yes, she did.

Juan Carlos: And, you know Kim's party's coming up, right?

Viviana: Yeah.

Juan Carlos: I'm wondering if you wanted to go with me.

Viviana: I can't. I have a ten o'clock curfew.

Juan Carlos: Ten o'clock?

Viviana: I know. Maybe some other time? Thanks though.

Martha: Hi, Viviana.

Viviana: Juan Carlos, what are you doing here?

Martha: Juan Carlos came to ask for permission to take you out to Kim's party.

Juan Carlos: You did?

Martha: And I told him that you can go with him, but only if you came back–

Viviana: Yeah, I know–

Martha: –by midnight.

Viviana: Midnight?

Martha: Not one minute later!

Viviana: Thank you, Mom! I love you. Thank you.

Martha: Not one minute after midnight or I'll have your head.

Juan Carlos: I promise, Ms. Cardona.

Review and Summary

Narrator: Hi, Mom! What a story. See how a little patience can go a long way? Today you learned about comparative and superlative adjectives. You also learned that women have many new opportunities.

Well, I have to go now. I'm finally feeling better and Rosalinda invited me to go meet her family. I'm nervous. But in the meantime, don't forget to practice your English.

We'll see you soon on the next English for All!