SPEAKING SESSION · SCORE SHEET

Adriana García

Conversation with our guest speaker Nina · Elementary English · 27 August 2026

50%

Pass = 3.0

Nota: 2.5 / 5.0

How it went

Adriana, this session did not go the way we wanted, and the reason is worth understanding properly.

The problem was not your speaking. It was your **listening**. Most of the time you could not hear what Nina was asking, and once you lose the question there is nothing you can do with the English you already have. That is why the score is what it is.

This matters because it tells us exactly what to work on. Listening is a skill you build by doing it, and it improves faster than almost anything else. You are not starting from nothing: when you **did** understand a question, you answered it well. You said *I am a merchant*. You explained what you cook. You understood the question about television and answered it properly. Every one of those was correct English.

Esto no fue un problema de tu inglés hablado, sino de escucha. Cuando entendiste la pregunta, respondiste bien. Eso es exactamente lo que vamos a trabajar.

Nina's recommendations

Lo que escribió Nina en su hoja de evaluación

Nina filled in her own feedback form after the session. This is what she wrote. Her form is the last page of this document. She left the grammar row blank.

Understanding	Speaking	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Confidence
Needs practice	Needs practice	Getting there	not marked	Getting there	Getting there

What went well

"Adriana has an excellent conversation manner and you could feel her genuine interest in two-way communication. She is a natural communicator."

One thing to practise

"I think the main thing Adriana can practise is increasing her vocabulary, so she has more words she can recognise and draw from. With this vocabulary she will flourish."

Read that first paragraph again, because it is important and it is not a consolation prize. Nina spoke to three students that day and this is what she said about you. **A natural communicator** is not something you can study for. You made a stranger feel that you wanted to talk to her, in a language you barely have yet. That is the hard part of conversation, and you already have it. What is missing is the easy part: words. And words can be learned.

Nina dice que eres una comunicadora natural y que con más vocabulario vas a florecer. Lo difícil de una conversación ya lo tienes; lo que falta se aprende.

Where you stand

La evaluación de tu profesor

Skill	Level	Note
Listening and understanding	**Needs work**	The main thing. You understood very few of Nina's questions, and everything else depends on this.
Conversation manner	**Strong**	You stayed warm, interested and willing for the whole session. Nina noticed it and wrote it down.
Pronunciation	**Good**	Only one word needed correcting in the whole conversation. That is a good sign.
Vocabulary range	**Needs work**	You often knew what you wanted to say and did not have the words. Nina said the same.
Answering with a sentence	**Needs work**	Several answers were one or two words. *Valery 8*, *Not*.

What you got right

Lo que te salió bien

I am a merchant. · **What you cook**, explained correctly. · **The television question**, understood and answered: *Caso Cerrado* and *Master Chef*. · **windy** and **cold**, two correct weather words.

Look at what these four have in common: every time you understood the question, you produced correct English. Your English is not the problem. Hearing the question is.

The two most important things

1. When you do not understand, say so in English. You already know how.

At one point you asked Nina to *spell* a word. But spelling was not what you needed: letters do not tell you what a word means. What you needed was **"Can you speak slowly, please?"** You had that sentence in Workshop 15 and you did not reach for it. That is normal under pressure, and it is exactly why we practise them until they come out without thinking.

The next page has the five sentences. Learn them until you do not have to think about them. They turn a moment where you are lost into a moment where you are still in the conversation.

Pediste que te deletrearan una palabra, pero lo que necesitabas era pedir que hablara más despacio. Esas frases ya las tienes: hay que practicarlas hasta que salgan solas.

2. Train your ear, and use Master Chef to do it.

You told Nina you watch *Master Chef*. Perfect: there is an English version, and you already know how the programme works, so you can follow it even when the words are hard. Watch it in English with Spanish subtitles for two weeks. Then switch the subtitles to English. Then, some day, turn them off.

Fifteen minutes a day of English in your ears will change more than an hour of grammar. You do not have to understand everything. You only have to keep listening.

Ve Master Chef en inglés con subtítulos en español, después con subtítulos en inglés. Quince minutos al día. No tienes que entender todo: solo seguir escuchando.

WHAT TO CORRECT

Your five rescue sentences

Tus cinco frases de rescate

Learn these by heart. They are the most useful English on this page.

Apréndetelas de memoria. Son el inglés más útil de toda esta hoja.

When this happens	Say this	Why
She speaks too fast.	**Can you speak slowly, please?**	This is the one you needed and did not use. Ask for *slowly*, not for spelling.
You did not catch the question.	**Can you repeat that, please?**	Nobody minds repeating. It is a normal thing to say in English.
You heard it but it means nothing.	**Sorry, I don't understand.**	Say this instead of going quiet or switching to Spanish.
One word is blocking you.	**What does "___" mean?**	This asks for the meaning. Spelling only gives you letters.
You need a word you do not have.	**How do you say "___" in English?**	Use it instead of stopping. Nina is happy to give you the word.

Answer the question that was asked

Responde la pregunta que te hicieron

You said	You should say	Why
Nina: Hello, how are you? You: I live with my husband and my three children.	**I'm fine, thank you. And you?**	A greeting, not a question about your family. Answer it, then ask it back.
Nina: Can you cook? You: Can you cook?	**Yes, I can cook.**	You read the question from your notes instead of answering it. Nina had just asked it.
Nina: How many people live in Pasca? You: Yes, small people.	**Pasca is a small town. About twelve thousand people live there.**	*How many* asks for a **number**, not a size.
Nina: Do you want to go to Master Chef Colombia? You: Not.	**No, I don't. or No, I don't want to.**	For *Do you...?* the short answer is **No, I don't**. Never *not* on its own.

Say the whole sentence

Di la frase completa

You said	You should say	Why
Valery 8.	**My daughter Valery is 8 years old.**	Subject, then verb, then the rest. You know this sentence.
Emily 11.	**My daughter Emily is 11 years old.**	Same pattern.
Didier 16.	**My son Didier is 16 years old.**	Same pattern, with *son* because Didier is a boy.

Pronunciation and words you needed

Pronunciación y palabras que te faltaron

You said	You should say	Why
Fasband.	**Husband, said HUZ-band.**	It starts with a soft **h**, not an *f*. This was the only pronunciation slip all session.
y así	**and so on**	The English for *y así*. *"I sell fruit, vegetables, and so on."*
windy, cold (correct)	**sunny · rainy · cloudy · hot · warm · cool**	You had two weather words. Learn these six and you can answer any weather question.

Bandeja paisa. You said it is made of fruit and orange. The words you were reaching for were: **beans, rice, minced beef, pork, fried egg, avocado** and **plantain**.

This is exactly what Nina meant. You knew the dish perfectly well; you simply did not have the words in English yet, so you used the food words you did have. Write these seven down and say them out loud. Next time you will have them.

Sabías perfectamente qué es la bandeja paisa. Lo que faltaban eran las palabras en inglés.

About your notes

Sobre tus apuntes

Your notes had the whole questions written in them.

So when Nina asked something, you looked down, found the question on your page and read it out loud, and then gave your answer. Nina had asked it two seconds earlier, so she heard her own question twice. It also cost you several seconds each time, and it stopped you listening to her.

The fix: write only **key words** in your notes, never the whole question. Not *"Can you play an instrument?"* but just *"instrument: guitar, no"*. Listen to Nina first with your eyes up. Then look down for the words.

En tus apuntes escribe solo palabras clave, nunca la pregunta completa. Escucha primero, mirando a la otra persona, y después baja la vista a buscar las palabras.

Before the next session

Para la próxima

Practise this	How	Why it helps
Master Chef in English	**15 minutes a day, Spanish subtitles first**	Trains your ear on a programme you already follow.
The five rescue sentences	**Out loud, every day, until automatic**	They keep you in the conversation when you get lost.
Rewrite your notes	**Key words only, never full questions**	Frees your ears and your eyes to listen.
Answer with a full sentence	**Practise the three about your children**	Subject, verb, then the rest. Never one word alone.
Ten new words a week	**Weather, food, work. Say them out loud.**	Nina's advice: with vocabulary, you will flourish.

You are a natural communicator. Now we get you the words.

Eres una comunicadora natural. Ahora vamos por las palabras.



Feedback: Adriana

Date: 27 August 2026

Skill	Needs practice	Getting there	Good	Very good
Understanding Followed the questions, with normal repetition	√	○	○	○
Speaking Kept the conversation going and said enough	√	○	○	○
Vocabulary Had the words for the topics	○	√	○	○
Grammar Basic sentences and verbs (mistakes are normal at this level)	○	○	○	○
Pronunciation Clear and easy to understand	○	√	○	○
Confidence Relaxed and grew more confident during the chat	○	√	○	○

What went well

Adriana has an excellent conversation manner and you could feel her genuine interest in two-way communication. She is a natural communicator.

One thing to practise

I think the main thing Adriana can practise is increasing her vocabulary, so she has more words she can recognise and draw from. With this vocabulary she will flourish ☺

Anything else