

Introduction

Although this is a short excerpt (1 min 50 seconds) of a longer conversation, it is an excellent example of modern fast-spoken Mexican Spanish. At this point in the conversation, there are not a lot of verbal exchanges. Here we have a long question and a long answer. What is interesting here is to see the construction of a long stretch of speaking is made up of a lot of small phrases.

The grammar here is not complicated. All users of the Essential Spanish 1 products should have no problem following the conversation. The problem is more the speed of delivery that is rather intimidating. It is fast. This is why the transcript is so useful. Once you see what is being said, it's really not that difficult to follow.

All the major features of spoken language are present: short phrases, simple grammatical structures, incomplete sentences, hesitations and mistakes.

Technical Notes

- 1- Vestirse 'to dress' will be used often here. Note how Spanish uses the reflexive form 'to dress oneself' whereas English uses simply 'to dress.'
- 2- Pueda is used in the subjunctive form of poder because of 'tal vez.'
- 3- Vestir here probably goes with the te in front of sugiere. Spanish does allow the reflexive pronoun to be separated from the accompanying verb. So me voy a casar and voy a casarme are interchangeable.
- 4- The verb dedicarse is used in Spanish when talking about your profession.
- 5- Notice how you can make a noun out a verb by putting the article el in front. Here, tener en cuenta becomes el tener en cuenta.
- 6- Note the pronunciation of the d's here. They are not at all like the English d. The first is stronger of the two, but they are somewhat closer to 'th' than to d.
- 7- The sí here has the accent because it means "yes" and not "if." This sort of construction "sí se puede" (yes, it possible) is quite common but not always easy to perceive.
- 8- suceda is in the subjunctive form because of "es muy común que"
- 9- quizá is an alternative form of quizás "perhaps."
- 10- The speaker here uses a form of estar. Other users would probably have used the ser.
- 11- este here is a commonly used a filler, like "umm" when one is not sure of what to say.
- 12- Note the form of igual que meaning "just like."
- 13- Remember that imitar is written with the in- in front.
- 14- tenga que is in the subjunctive form because of 'no porque' earlier in this sentence.

--A veces hay personas de cuarenta, cincuenta años que quieren vestirse¹ como jovencitas de 15 años. Eso tal vez pueda² ser aplicable también en los casos de los cabelleros. Tú, ¿cómo lo ves? e...e. ¿hay..hay un criterio en este sentido que la edad te sugiere vestir³ de tal o cual manera?

--Definativamente, Alonso, hay un criterio muy importante, básico, a que nos dedicamos⁴ a las recomendaciones en cuestiones de la imagen. Y a la hora de sel..de selec.. de seleccionar tu vestuario, tu corte de cabello, el maquillaje en las damas por supuesto, un criterio básico, y esencial, es el tener⁵ en cuenta tu edad,⁶ ¿qué edad tienes? para entonces elegir el tipo de ropa, de maquillaje, y de vestuario. Porque entonces sí⁷ se puede caer o se cae en el ridículo cuando ya eres mayorcito y quieres vestirse como un jovencito o una jovencita de 15 años. Y es muy común que suceda⁸ cuando esa señora no tuvo quizá⁹ una juventud..e..e.cuando.. quizá los padres quizá la situación económica, etc. no le permitieron vestirse como estaba¹⁰ la moda en su época..e..e.el quizá..la..la..los, pues no sé, las limitaciones que tuvo no le dejaron, este,¹¹ ser lo que quería ser. Entonces, esta señora después tiene la posibilidad de muchos aspectos de vestirse como quiere, de maquillarse como quiere, de andar como quiere y entonces cae en arreglarse igual que¹² una adolescente y a veces trata de imitar¹³ la forma de arreglo de sus hijas. Entonces es muy importante considerar...considerar la edad. En este caso..e.. es importante señalar que hay moda para todas las edades, es decir no porque una señora de cuarenta, cuarenta cinco o hasta sesenta años tenga¹⁴ que se diga 'yo pues ¿para qué me arreglo? Y yo para mí no va a haber moda.' Hay moda para los bebés, hay tendencias para los jóvenes y hay tendencias para la gente adulta por supuesto, pero como dice el dicho; De la moda lo que te acomoda, para no caer en el juego de la moda, de la mercadotecnia, de la influencia solamente de la publicidad. Ahí es donde entra el saber que te queda, que voy a comprar porque me beneficia.

Translation

--Sometimes there are people, forty-five, fifty years old who try to dress like fifteen-year olds. This may even apply to men. What do you make of this? Is this a factor in the sense that age suggests the way you dress.

--Definitely, Alonso, there is a very important basic criterion that we image stylists always use. And when the time comes to choose your wardrobe, your hairstyle, or make-up for women, of course, a basic and essential criterion is to take into account age. How old are you? So, then we can decide what clothing to wear, make-up and wardrobe. Because, of course, you can look ridiculous when you are more mature and you try to dress like a 15-year old teenager.

And this actually happens quite often when this woman perhaps did not have a youth...when perhaps the parents, the financial situation, etc. did not allow her to dress according to the fashion of the time...perhaps, I don't know, the restrictions that she had did not allow her to be what she wanted to be. Now, she has the means to dress as she wishes, to use the make-up she wanted, to do as she wishes and then decides to dress like a teenager and sometimes attempts to imitate her daughters. So, it is very important to consider age. In this case, it is important to point out that there is fashion for everybody, that is to say that a women in her 40s or 50s or even in her 70s doesn't have to say, "Why should I pay attention to fashion when there's nothing for me?" There's fashion for toddlers, trends for young people and trends for adults, of course. As the saying goes "Use the fashions that work for you." and don't become a victim of fashion, marketing and the power of advertising. This is where you have to use your head, so that you buy what advantages you.