

UNIT 2 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Jaime: So, Armando, how did you end up living in Vancouver again?

Armando: Well, right after college I got a job at a Japanese company that had an office in Mexico City. They transferred me to their office in Vancouver after I'd been working there for a few months. The office in Vancouver is much bigger and there's a lot more contact with the Tokyo headquarters. And since I had studied abroad in Tokyo, I guess the company thought I would be a good fit.

Jaime: Don't you speak Japanese though?

Armando: Well, I used to be able to speak a little Japanese when I was living in Tokyo. And I even spoke a little in my interview at the Japanese company. But now my Chinese is much better than my Japanese. I've studied that for the past few years. Shiyi has helped me a lot with that.

Shiyi: Yea. When we started dating I was a little worried that you weren't going to make an effort to learn Chinese at all.

Armando: But then you brought it up.

Shiyi: I did. It was a few weeks before my family was coming to visit. I was in my late 20s at the time, and my parents had been hounding me about when I was going to get married. I was a little reluctant to tell them that I was dating someone, but when I did, they immediately wanted to meet him. So I asked you if you wanted to, and you immediately agreed. You asked if they spoke any English, and I said that only my brother spoke well enough to communicate fluently with you. My parents didn't speak English at all and they still don't. Jaime, Armando was so worried. So, he bought a few books to learn the basics, and read up on Chinese cultural practices.

Jaime: That seems like a good idea. How did the first meeting go?

Armando: What do you think, Shiyi?

Shiyi: It was terrific. Even though Armando couldn't say much at the time, he greeted and introduced himself to my parents in Chinese. He was also quite perceptive and picked

up a lot of words and expressions by following along when my family and I were talking. It was very impressive.

Armando: And that's when she really fell in love with me.

Shiyi: It sure was. I hadn't known if you were serious about me until you made such an effort to impress my parents.

Jaime: It sounds like you two have been quite successful navigating the ins and outs of an intercultural marriage.

Shiyi: Effort is important. Humans want to interact, but there's only so much you can do with a translator or body language. Actually communicating on your own is a great way to show your commitment to wanting to get to know other people, even if it's not perfect. And for families that are close, it's necessary for being a part of the family.