

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंको शुभ नाम के हो?

सारा: मेरो शुभ नाम सारा नै हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: सारा? अनि कति वर्ष हुनुभयो?

सारा: म चौबिस।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: चौबिस? अनि अहिले के गर्नुहुन्छ?

सारा: घरको काम गर्छु।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: घरमा काम गर्छु? कति भयो काम गरेको?

सारा: अहिले ४-५ महिना भयो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि त्यो भन्दा पहिला के गर्नु हुन्थ्यो?

सारा: Labor काम गर्थे।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: Labor काम? कति उमेर देखि गर्नुभएको?

सारा: त्यस्तै बिस वर्ष देखि।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि के गर्नुपर्थ्यो?

सारा: यस्तो ढुंगा, मुडा सबै बोकेर हिँड्नुपर्थ्यो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि कतिको गाह्रो थियो?

सारा: गाह्रो त गाह्रो गाह्रो। असाध्यै गाह्रो छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि काठमाडौँ शहरको हो कि कताको हो?

सारा: काठमाडौँ शहरमै हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: यतैको हो?

सारा: हजुर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि school पढ्नुभएको छ?

सारा: अँ। पढेको¹ थिएँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए। कति वर्षसम्म school [inaudible]...

सारा: ७ कक्षा सम्म पढेँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: सात कक्षा सम्म पढ्यो?

सारा: अँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि रोक्नुभएको चाहिँ किन नि?

सारा: के भएर रोक्नुभएको भनेको?

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अँ।

सारा: बिरामी भएर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए।

सारा: Last जाँच दिन सकेन त्यहि भएर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि त्यसपछि फेरी...?

¹ The speaker does not say the full word 'पढेको / padh-eko', but rather only pronounces half of it as 'padh-ya'. It's like shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English. The prefix '-ेको/ eko' is often shortened to '-या/ya' in colloquial Nepali. In formal Nepali writing, this would be considered an error.

सारा: अँहँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अब, तपाईं school जाँदा होइन?

सारा: हजुर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अब कस्तो थियो school?

सारा: सरकारी school। ठिकठिकै।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ठिकठिकै?

सारा: हजुर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि किताबहरु सबै हुन्थ्यो?

सारा: हुन्थ्यो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अब धेरै जस्तो महिलाहरु हुन्थ्यो कि महिलाहरुपनि त्यतिकै थियो केटा मान्छेहरु भन्दा...

सारा: महिला... केटा मान्छे पनि महिला पनि त्यस्तै...त्यति त्यति नै थियो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: त्यति त्यति नै थियो? अनि खेल्ने ठाउँहरु सबै थियो?

सारा: Ground थियो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: थियो?

सारा: थियो।

English translation:

Interviewer: What is your *shubha*² name?

² The direct translation of '*shubha*' is 'auspicious' or 'good'; when people formally ask each other's name they say this as a sign of respect. It may also be related to the fact that name choosing ceremonies in Nepal are very auspicious occasions in Nepal.

Sara: My *shubha* name is Sara.

Interviewer: Sara? How old are you?

Sara: I am twenty-four.

Interviewer: Twenty-four? What do you do now?

Sara: I do housework.

Interviewer: So you do housework? How long has it been since you started working?

Sara: It has been 4-5 months now.

Interviewer: And what did you do before this?

Sara: I worked in labor [as a manual laborer].

Interviewer: Labor work? At what age did you start doing manual labor?

Sara: At around [the age of] twenty years.

Interviewer: What did you have to do?

Sara: I had to carry stones, wood—everything.

Interviewer: How hard was it?

Sara: It was extremely difficult.

Interviewer: Are you from Kathmandu city or from somewhere else?

Sara: I am from Kathmandu city.

Interviewer: So you are from here?

Sara: *Hajur*³.

Interviewer: So have you studied in a school?

Sara: *An*⁴. I did study.

³ '*Hajur*', in this context is used as 'yes', as a response to the interviewer's question in a respectful way. It may also be used to address someone older, to acknowledge that a speaker is right and to ask a speaker to repeat something they just said in a formal way.

Interviewer: *Ae*⁵... For how many years...?

Sara: I studied till class seven.

Interviewer: You studied till grade seven?

Sara: *An*.

Interviewer: What was the reason that you stopped your studies?

Sara: Why did I stop?

Interviewer: *An*.

Sara: Because I got sick.

Interviewer: *Ae*.

Sara: I couldn't give the last exam, that's why.

Interviewer: And after that [did you continue your studies]...?

Sara: No.

Interviewer: Now, so when you went to school, *hoina*?

Sara: *Hajur*.

Interviewer: How was school then?

Sara: It was a government school. It was fine.

Interviewer: Fine?

Sara: *Hajur*.

Interviewer: Did you used to have all the books?

⁴ '*An*'^{अँ} is a colloquial word that is pronounced with a nasal tone. It is just used to agree to something, almost like saying 'yes'.

⁵ '*Ae*' is like an interjection. It can be used in ways similar to that of the word 'Oh' in English. In this context, '*Ae*' is used to acknowledge and express understanding of the interviewee's statement. It can also be used to directly address someone, especially if you're trying to get their attention from afar or it can also be used to express surprise.

Sara: We did.

Interviewer: Did there used to be more women or were the number of men and women [in the school] same?

Sara: Women... There were women and also men. There were equal number of men and women.

Interviewer: So it was equal? Were there playgrounds to play in?

Sara: We had a ground.

Interviewer: You did?

Sara: We did.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated