

This story is about Sam. Sam is looking for a job. Sam is from Mexico. He arrived in Austin last year. He looked for a job, but could not find one. His English was not good, so he went to Austin Community College. He improved his English. Now he is looking for a job again. He is talking to his friends about jobs. He hopes someone will know about a job opening. This is called networking.

Read these conversations to see how Sam networks.

Sam: I am looking for a job, Jan. Do you know about any job openings?

Jan: My friend Amy works at a doctor's office. They need someone to answer the phones and schedule appointments.

Sam: That's not a good job for me because it is hard for me to understand English over the phone. I also have a hard time making myself understood on the phone. But thank you for the idea. If you hear of a job at the doctor's office that doesn't involve talking on the phone, I would be interested.

Jan: Sure, Sam. I'll keep my ears open.

Sam: Hello, Beth. I am looking for a job. Do you know about any job openings?

Beth: My husband works as a chef in a restaurant. They need another cook. Can you cook?

Sam: I don't know how to cook, so that's probably not a good job for me. Thank you for the idea. If you hear of a job as a waiter or dishwasher, I could do that.

Beth: Ok. They have all the waiters they need now, but maybe something will open up in the future.

Sam: Hello, Debbie. I am looking for a job. Do you know about any job openings?

Debbie: My school is looking for another teacher. We need someone to teach the three year old class. Have you ever taught?

Sam: No, I have never taught and I don't like being around small children. I don't know how to make them behave. I think I would be a bad teacher. This is not the job for me. Thank you for the idea. Please think of me if you hear of any other job openings.

Debbie: Will do, Sam.

Before reading this conversation, look at page 170, letter A

Sam: Hello, Erica. I am looking for a job. Do you know about any job openings? Does your company need help?

Erica: My company does not have any openings. But I have a friend who works for Dell. He assembles components. He just got a job there. He says they are hiring people for the assembly line. You should apply there.

Sam: That sounds like the perfect job for me. I worked as a drill press operator on an assembly line in a factory in Mexico. Thank you so much. Do you know who I should get in touch with?

Erica: You can call my friend, Carlos. He is the one who just got a job there. He will be able to tell you who to get in touch with. Or you could just call Dell and ask them.

Sam: That would be great. I'll call Dell that right away.

Sam called Dell.

Sam: Hello, my name is Sam Martinez. I am looking for a job. I heard you have job openings on the assembly line.

Ms. Johnson: Yes, Sam. We have a few job openings. Have you worked on an assembly line before?

Sam: Yes. I worked for General Electric in Mexico. I assembled parts for refrigerators, and I also learned to operate a drill press to make parts.

Ms. Johnson: That sounds good, Sam. Please fill out the online application, and attach your resume. I will call you for an interview.

Sam: Thank you very much. I will send in my application and resume immediately.

This is Sam's resume:

Name: Samuel C. Martinez
Address; 2447 Avenue C, Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-458-8322
Email: sam.martinez@gmail.com

Personal:

Born: August 5, 1987 in San Diego, California
Married with one child.
Social Security No.: 527-39-9998

Education:

2015: Austin Community College—9 hours of English classes including English conversation, reading and writing
2006: graduated San Isidro Catholic High School, Monterrey, Mexico

Skills:

operate drill press, assemble electrical components

Employment History:

2006-2015 General Electric Co., Monterrey, Mexico
operated a drill press on an assembly line making refrigerators

2004-2006 El Patio Restaurant
worked part time as busboy while in high school

Ms. Johnson invited Sam to come in for an interview. Read his interview.

Ms. Johnson: Hello, Sam. Have a seat. I read your resume. Tell me about your job at General Electric.

Sam: I worked on the assembly line there for nine years. I was employee of the month twice. I had the second highest productivity rate in the factory.

Ms. Johnson: Why did you leave General Electric?

Sam: My wife and I moved to the United States. My wife was accepted to the University of Texas. She is working on her college degree. She wants to be a nurse

Ms. Johnson: Do you have plans to go to college?

Sam: I would like to go to college, but I can't think about that now. I have a wife and daughter to support. I must work. Maybe when my wife graduates and has a job, I'll be able to at least go to school part-time.

Ms. Johnson: Have you ever been fired from a job?

Sam: No, I haven't. I liked my job at General Electric. But my wife and I decided to move here. We think the opportunities are better here. We want to be successful.

Ms. Johnson: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Sam: I am a hard worker, I never missed a day of work at General Electric. I want to improve myself. I want to provide support for my family. You will not regret hiring me, Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Johnson: OK, Sam. Thanks for coming in. You will hear from us soon.

Discussion:

1. Do you think Sam will get this job?
2. What questions would you ask Sam at the interview?
3. Do you have a resume?
4. Have you looked for a job in the United States?
5. Is it hard to get a job in your country?
6. Is it hard to get a job here?