

EVOLVE LEVEL 5 Baseline Test B

LISTENING 2

- Susan:** Today, I'm delighted to welcome Carlos Romero on our show. Carlos, welcome!
- Carlos:** Thanks for inviting me, Susan.
- Susan:** Carlos, you have an unusual job, don't you? Please tell us a little about it.
- Carlos:** I do! I'm very lucky ... I oversee a team in a research lab near the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua. For years I'd been dreaming of traveling to Central America, and suddenly I got a job there!
- Susan:** And I understand that you study a very special species of bird? Is that correct?
- Carlos:** Yes, I'm in charge of monitoring a colony – or group – of parakeets that live in and around the volcano.
- Susan:** Parakeets? I've never heard of a parakeet. Is that a type of parrot?
- Carlos:** Well, they're similar. They share many of the same features. The ones I study are green parakeets.
- Susan:** And why are you researching that particular species?
- Carlos:** We're trying to figure out how the parakeets survive in this habitat. The volcano is active, so it's a pretty terrible habitat, filled with dangerous gases.
- Susan:** That's incredible!
- Carlos:** Yeah, it really is incredible. The smell that comes from the poisonous gases inside the volcano is disgusting. It makes me feel sick. Humans have to protect themselves against the gases, but the parakeets are fine. They're very adaptable, it seems.
- Susan:** Do you enjoy your work?
- Carlos:** I love it! I'm extremely conscious how fortunate I am. I'm lucky to have such a worthwhile job, lucky to be making a contribution to scientific research, and lucky to be in Nicaragua. When I was in college, I never thought I'd have a job like this one day.
- Susan:** Will you return to the States one day?
- Carlos:** I guess so, because research will be needed in other environments, but I hope to be here for a couple more years. It's going to leave a lasting impression on me, I know that.
- Susan:** Well, Carlos, thanks so much for coming on the show and talking to us. Good luck with your research!
- Carlos:** You're welcome. Thank you!