Making Inferences

An *inference* is an idea you have because you have knowledge and experience that tells you it may be true. For example, if you see some students running in through the front door of the school and they are wet, you can infer that it is raining. Making inferences while you listen or read helps you understand more.

**Watch the video and then read these examples of inferences.**

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| **Question** | **She says** | **I know** | **So** |
| 1. How does the speaker feel? | She says, “sorry.” Then she says her name three times. | People who are nervous may repeat and say sorry. | She is probably nervous. |
| 1. Does the speaker have any brothers or sisters? | She says her nephew snores. | A nephew is the son of your brother or sister. | Yes, she has a brother or sister. |
| 1. Does the speaker live near her family? | She says she heard her nephew snoring like a train. | She can hear the snoring when she is in the same house as her nephew. | She probably lives near her family. Maybe she lives with them. |

**Watch the video and finish writing the inferences.**

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| **Question** | **He says** | **I know** | **So** |
| 1. What kind of TV shows do you think he likes? | He says he played soccer a lot. |  |  |
| 1. Did anyone help the speaker when he moved to Minneapolis? | He says his brother and sister already lived in Minneapolis. |  |  |
| 1. Do you think he learned English at his job as a dishwasher? | He says he worked as a dishwasher for four years and then he started English classes. |  |  |
| 1. Does he like winter? |  |  |  |
| 1. Do you think he wants to move back to Ecuador? |  |  |  |

**Watch the video and write some inferences.**

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| **Question** | **She says** | **I know** | **So** |
| 1. Do you think that the speaker is homesick? |  |  |  |
| 1. Do you think the speaker’s home town is a safe place? |  |  |  |
| 1. Do you think most people in the speaker’s home town have electricity? |  |  |  |
| 1. Do you think that the speaker’s teacher helped her with her writing? |  |  |  |