

Lección 8

Cortometraje: *Happy Cool*

TEXT Buenos Aires - 1997

JULIO Pablito, why are you freezing ants?

PABLITO Can't find work? Freeze yourself. *Happy Cool*, the company that freezes you.

JULIO Listen to me. Don't be disrespectful to me, Ok? You hear me?

MABEL Leave him alone, Julio. He's freezing ants because he sees the advertisements on TV.

JULIO I come back from looking for work and I can't find anything, and on top of that, I have to see this. The kid has lost respect for me, and I don't know what to say to your father, who's putting us up. It seems that I'm a good-for-nothing after all.

MABEL My love, it's not your fault, it's the situation. We love you, fool.

JULIO How's it going, Daniel?

DANIEL How's it going, Julio? How are you?

JULIO I've already been to five places and nothing.

DANIEL Have you been unemployed for long?

JULIO It's been two and a half years.

DANIEL Two and a half years? It's been three for me, Julio. Three! If this goes on, I'm going to freeze myself and see you later. With that *Happy Cool*. Did you see it?

JULIO Yes, yes.

DANIEL And see you later...

JULIO Freeze yourself. They're crazy.

TV Don't go away because after the break there are more prize drawings.

LOCUTOR You're tired of looking. Have you thought that perhaps this isn't your time?

JULIO Can you pass me the salt?

SUEGRO Shhh...

LOCUTOR There's no work, but there is a company that's thinking about you, *Happy Cool*, with the technology that helps you wait for better times. Times of investment, of full employment. The future that we all dream about. Now you can wait until the year 2015, or 2100 or any year you want. Freeze yourself! And live the rest of your life in the opportune moment. *Happy Cool*, there's a better future. Freeze yourself and wait for it.

JINGLE *Happy Cool*, the company that freezes you.

JULIO What craziness.

MABEL Now they don't know what else to invent. I don't know why they just don't give work to people and that's that.

SUEGRA What's happening is that people are desperate and will do anything.

SUEGRO It doesn't seem bad to me at all. If technology is used to solve social problems.

PABLITO I want chocolate.

MABEL There isn't any. Don't be a brat. Your poor grandfather, he has to put up with us.

SUEGRO Here, here.

MABEL No, Dad, no. Help me clear the table.

SUEGRA You're not eating any more Julio?

JULIO No, no.

SUEGRO Look, Julio. It seems to me that this freezing thing would be good for you. I know many people with the same problem you have that are thinking about doing it.

JULIO I understand, Don Gerardo, but I've never been in this situation before. I always worked, maintained my family. And now if it weren't for you... You are the only family I have.

SUEGRO Freeze yourself, come on. Or are you scared?

JULIO No. I'm not scared. It's just that I don't want to leave Mabel alone.

SUEGRO Don't worry, because I'll take care of her. Anyway, I'm already doing it.

JULIO Yes, I know. It's one thing to help your daughter and your grandson and another to have me here as well like a parasite. But listen to me, Don Gerardo, give me a little more time, a week, ten days, I think that I'll be able to get something. It's hard, you know? But I think that something will turn up.

SUEGRO One week. Not one day more. If in that time you don't find something, I'll give you the cash, you freeze yourself and stop pestering me. I can't do anything more for you. I have my own problems, too. I won't feed more slackers. That's the end of it.

JULIO Look, Mabel, I might have to freeze myself. Just for a little while. I think that in one or two years things will be better.

MABEL But Julio, what are you talking about? How can you think about something like that? Look, if this doesn't get better until the year 2080, what will I do without my little Julio?

JULIO I think that this is the best for everyone. Seriously.

MABEL No.

JULIO I thought I would stay here. My father-in-law is pressuring me and he treats me like a slacker.

DANIEL You're making too much out of this, Julio. We have the solution within reach. Let's freeze ourselves and see you later.

JULIO Stop fooling around...Daniel.

DANIEL But yes. Do you remember how when we were kids we thought that in the year 2000 technology was going to be so powerful that we wouldn't need to work? You see? We were right, Julio.

VENDEDOR Looking for work, boys? I'm asking because you have the newspaper.

JULIO Yes...

VENDEDOR Did you know that according to the economic projections, the market studies, by the year 2010, they predict a demand of 30 million workers?

DANIEL 30 million, Julio!

VENDEDOR But until that time unemployment will continue.

JULIO So many market studies, so much marketing and they never get it right. They're always saying that the money will come, and it never comes.

VENDEDOR Well, until that time you have to wait. If you wait until the year 2010, 2020 at the latest, problem solved, boys! *Happy Cool*, my friends, *Happy Cool*!

DANIEL This is amazing, Julio, just what I need. Goodbye to everything, I'm freezing myself. Where do I sign?

VENDEDOR There at the bottom.

JULIO What are you doing, Daniel? Don't do stupid things.

DANIEL Julio, you go right ahead and keep walking around, waking up at five in the morning, waiting in line. Me, I'm going to freeze myself and see you later!

SUEGRO Freeze yourself, come on.

DANIEL We have the solution within our reach. We freeze ourselves and see you later.

PABLITO *Happy Cool*!

DANIEL Do you remember how when we were kids we thought that in the year 2000 technology was going to be so powerful that we wouldn't need to work?

VENDEDOR *Happy Cool*, my friends!

SUEGRO One week. Not one day more.

CIENTÍFICA Welcome, Mr. Julio.

JULIO What year is this?

CIENTÍFICA The year 2080, Mr. Julio.

JULIO I would like to see Mabel and Pablito.

CIENTÍFICA Don't worry, nowadays technology lets you do what you want. But look what a marvelous future, Julio, stay.

JULIO This is incredible! I'm thirsty.

JULIO Amazing! But you know what? I would like to see Mabel and Pablito. Can I do that?

CIENTÍFICA Of course, now it's common to time travel. What year would you like to go to?

JULIO 2001, more or less. Well...no, but, wait, wait. You know what? With this, I'd like to bring some money. Because I want to buy my son a jersey from the national soccer team.

CIENTÍFICA Click here.

JULIO Me? Wow! And to go to the year 2001 what do I do?

CIENTÍFICA 2001, enter.

LOCUTOR TV The frozen astronauts travel to distant space...

MABEL You came back from the future!

JULIO Wait, wait... Here's the best part... The money! The money!

MABEL Julio, Julio, wake up, Julio, Julio, weren't you going to look for work today?

JULIO No, Mabel, no. Your father is right, people are right, the advertisements are right. You know what? There is a better future. Let's go.

MABEL Oh, Julio, what technology!

JULIO Yes, yes. You can see that these are serious people. There is a lot of money invested in this.

MABEL Ah, I don't know what I should do. I don't know if I should bring you flowers as if you were in a cemetery or what.

JULIO Mabel, science raises many questions for us.

MABEL Come back soon.

JULIO I hope the economic situation improves.

MABEL I hope so.

JULIO That way they can defrost me as soon as possible.

MABEL Take care. I'm going to miss you. Is he already frozen?

TEXTO The Future

JULIO Hello, I'm Julio, a living witness from the past.

ENCARGADO I'm in charge of the present. Ah, he is defrosting. Very good, well, everyone to his or her home, I have to clean this place out. Let's go, let's go.

JULIO Listen sir, what year is this?

ENCARGADO 2001.

JULIO Only four years went by? But, the girls, the time tunnel. Did technology succeed? Is there full employment?

ENCARGADO Look, things are worse than when you got in this tube. Nothing advanced, there are no jobs. Everything is a disaster. Everything went backwards. Look, thaw out quickly because I have to leave this place in one week. Let's go, let's go!

JULIO They tricked us!

ENCARGADO Mmm.

JULIO They tricked us!

ENCARGADO Mmm. Please, leave your clothes; they're part of the inventory here from the bankruptcy. Here, have a suit, maybe it will fit you.

JULIO Pablito! Look who's here!

ELMER Who is it, Pablito?

PABLITO My old dad, Dad.

MABEL Julio, how are you?

JULIO Good.

MABEL I knew this was going to happen. Come here. Come in so I can explain. Go over to Chochi's, Pablito.

JULIO Uh...the boy...What do you have to explain to me?

MABEL Come, come in, come in...

JULIO What do you have to explain to me? Who is this guy?

MABEL I got remarried, Julio.

JULIO What do you mean you got remarried?

MABEL Yes, Julio. And what if you hadn't defrosted until the year 2100? What would I have done with my life, waiting until the situation passed and you could work? Elmer, my new husband.

ELMER What a mess this is with the freezing companies. Look what problems they cause.

MABEL Ay, I feel like Doña Flor with her two husbands.

JULIO I'll kill you, Mabel.

MABEL Oh, Julio, it's a joke. What if we try it again?

JULIO Ah, good, that's fine. You get separated and I'll forgive you.

MABEL No, Julio, I was talking about the freezing.

JULIO Oh.

ELMER It's good that you could fix the thing with Julio.

MABEL I told him I didn't like that "Happy Cool" thing. In the end, homemade is better.

ELMER Honey, the frozen vegetables, where should I put them away?

MABEL Put them in the freezer.

ELMER There's not much room now.

MABEL Let's see, give them to me and I'll put them away.

MABEL Ay, my love, what did I tell you about bottles in the freezer for more than two hours?

ELMER Well, I like them nice and frozen.

MABEL Nice and frozen, everything frozen... hey, listen, I'm in the mood to make a hot garlic dip today ...

JINGLE *Happy Cool, Happy Cool, Happy Cool, Happy Cool.* . .the company that freezes you.