



1. Her name is **Maryam Warsame**. She was born in Somalia. She came to Canada two months ago. Now she lives in Toronto. She is learning English. She is 36 years old. She doesn't like winter. She misses her parents. They live in Mogadishu.

2. This is **Lena De Jong**. She's 38 years old, and she lives in Amsterdam. She is divorced. She is a business person. She owns a computer cafe called InterNetworking. The cafe is a popular spot for young people; it's open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. She has ten computers in the cafe. Before she bought the cafe, she worked as an administrator in a flower export company for 10 years. She learned a lot about business. To relax, she meditates every morning. On weekends, she walks along the Amstel Canal. Lena loves literature and movies. She has friends who watch movies together. Afterwards, they discuss them for hours. She speaks four languages—Dutch, German, French, and English. Lena is concerned about justice and is a member of a human rights organization.

3. Meet **Amina Bayoumi**. Amina is 40 years old. She lives in Alexandria, Egypt. She's married, and has five children, four daughters and one son. She met her husband, Mustapha, through contacts made by members of her family, in particular, her mother's sister – her aunt Fatima. This was an arranged marriage. She could have refused, but Mustapha made a good impression in their first meeting. Her daughters understand the reasons for arranged marriages, but they don't want to find a husband in this way. Amina sees that her children are of a new generation, and she worries about preserving cultural traditions. She doesn't know what to do. She prays for guidance.

4. This is **Luz Gomez**. She's 51 years old and lives in Havana, Cuba. She's a doctor, a general practitioner, who works at a clinic near her home. Luz has two children, Jorge and Cristina. Jorge is a teacher in a high school in Santa Clara, a city east of Havana; he's engaged to be married. Cristina is married to Luis Garcia, and they have one child, Rosa. They all live in Havana. Luz is a widow. Her husband, Alberto, died two years ago of a heart attack. His death came as a complete surprise to everyone, as he seemed to be in perfect health. Luz was shocked, and she grieved his passing for a long time. She threw herself into her medical practice to cope with her sense of loss. Everyone in the neighborhood says that she is a wonderful doctor, that she puts patients at ease, listens carefully as they describe their symptoms, and makes accurate diagnoses. Luz spends a lot of her extra time with her family, especially with her daughter and grand-daughter. Rosa loves her grand-mother's cooking, especially the merenguitos (a mixture of beaten egg whites whipped with sugar). Sometimes Luz wonders what her life would have become if she had not studied medicine. What would she have done?

Note: Four students at different proficiency levels create their characters from one face.
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