**Listening Exercise 111**

**Audio Transcript (2 minutes 15 seconds)**

El Universal (MX newspaper)

¡Gracias por hacer un esfuerzo para mejorar su entendimiento del español! ☺

Guidelines:

A. Review the questions

B. Play the audio twice in repetition (click on the icon)

C. Attempt to answer the questions.

F. Review the transcript to gauge comprehension

G. Listen to the audio a third and fourth time while simultaneously reading the transcript

H. Refer to the answers, vocabulary and translation to clarify doubts and uncertainties



**Telón de Fondo.** The government of Mexico announced plans to build a new airport. The current airport is projected to soon reach full capacity. The government of Mexico was unsuccessful in an attempt to build a new airport almost 10 years ago. Current plans attempt a different approach to avoid failure.

**Questions:**

1. The MX government must consider what 3 aspects in proving it has the best possible plan?
2. Tourism, energy, industry
3. Economic, social, environmental
4. Transportation, housing, security
5. Agriculture, jobs, and foreign investment
6. True or False. The ground underneath and around the current airport will be saturated with water by 2015.
7. The airport will not be completed until after the end of the current administration in 2018. What purpose might the current administration have for rushing the approval of airport construction plans?
   1. Take advantage of low finance interest rates
   2. Boost domestic employment
   3. Political gain
   4. Attract foreign investment
8. Why did the earlier attempt to win approval for airport construction fail?
   1. Funding was unavailable during the economic downturn
   2. Security threats from drug cartel violence
   3. Government mishandling of negotiations with property owners
   4. The need for additional airport facilities was not yet critical
9. Who currently controls the land where the new airport is to be built?
   1. Ranchers and campesinos
   2. The State Oil Company, PEMEX
   3. Organized criminal groups
   4. The MX government
10. What are potential problems with the designated construction area?
    1. Sinking ground, flooding
    2. Displacement of villages, economic polarization
    3. Noise pollution, endangered wildlife
    4. Ongoing oil exploration

**Los detalles del aeropuerto**

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| La decisión de construir un nuevo aeropuerto para el Valle de México era inaplazable: diagnósticos desde hace más de diez años anticipaban ya la saturación del actual. El reto ahora es convencer que el proyecto presentado es el mejor posible tras considerar todas las aristas económicas, sociales y ambientales. | The decision to build a new airport for the Valley of Mexico was urgent: diagnostics for over ten years were anticipating the saturation of the current one. The challenge now is to convince that the project presented is the best after considering all the economic, social and environmental angles. |
| La Secretaría de Comunicaciones y transportes del sexenio pasado había advertido desde el Programa Maestro del Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México 2006-2011 que sin una sede alterna al de la Ciudad de México, la terminal Benito Juárez llegaría a una saturación total en 2015. | The Secretariat of Communications and Transportation from the past six years had warned since the Master Plan of the Mexico City International Airport 2006-2011 that without an alternate location to Mexico City, the Benito Juarez terminal would reach supersaturation in 2015. |
| El anuncio fue, además, pertinente en términos políticos: prevé que la totalidad de las obras continúen más allá de 2018, con lo cual se conjura desde ahora, al menos en el discurso, el riesgo de inauguraciones adelantadas con el simple fin de cortar el listón durante la presente administración. | The announcement was also relevant in political terms: it foresees that overall work continues beyond 2018, which brings up now, at least in discussion, the risk of premature opening for the sole purpose of cutting the ribbon during the present administration. |
| El debate se concentra más bien en la sede y en el tipo de proyecto. | The debate focuses rather on the site and the type of project. |
| Algunas voces critican desde ya las posibles afectaciones a comunidades aledañas. Cabe recordar el estrepitoso fracaso que significó para la administración del ex presidente Vicente Fox la cancelación del último gran Proyecto de construcción de un nuevo aeropuerto. En ese tiempo el problema fue el poco tacto del gobierno federal a la hora de lidiar con propietarios de tierras que se negaron a vender sus terrenos. | Some voices are beginning to criticize the possible impacts to surrounding communities. It is worth recalling what the resounding failure meant for the administration of former President Vicente Fox of the cancellation of the last big project of building a new airport. At that time the problem was the federal government’s tactless dealings with landowners who refused to sell their land. |
| Incluso el gobierno federal actual afirma que los terrenos son suyos, la mejor manera de desactivar conflictos será transparentando los detalles de la construcción. | Even the current federal government claims that the land is theirs, the best way to defuse conflict is being clear about construction details. |
| A su vez, hay que escuchar y responder a los señalamientos de que los terrenos federales bajo escrutinio son zonas de potencial hundimiento, vulnerables ante anegaciones y que representan el ultimo remanente del extinto gran Lago de Texcoco. ¿La ampliación del aeropuerto de la Ciudad de México impediría la filtración de agua hacia el subsuelo y, por tanto, dejaría vulnerables ante las lluvias a los asentamientos en derredor? Las autoridades de la Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes deben aclarar el punto. | In turn, it’s necessary to listen and answer allegations that federal lands under scrutiny are potential areas of flooding, vulnerable water saturation and that represent the last remnant of the late great Lake Texcoco. Would the expansion of the Mexico City airport prevent ground water seepage and, thus, leave nearby settlements vulnerable to rains? would cease settlements on every side? Authorities from the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation should clarify the point. |
| Un nuevo aeropuerto era indispensable, pero el desahogo del tráfico aéreo y el incremento en la inversión no pueden ser los únicos criterios a considerar. | A new airport was essential, but relieving air traffic and increasing investment cannot be the only criteria to consider. |