

## London Life

### *A Mexican in London*

**Yvonne:** As we know, London is a very cosmopolitan city – so it’s possible to meet people here from countries that we may never visit. And that’s just what we’re doing today on London Life with Miguel Molina from Mexico. This is bbclearningenglish.com and I’m Yvonne Archer. Hello!

Miguel has been living in London for about ten years and works as an Editor in the BBC’s Latin American Service. So he’s an old friend! But life is not all about work, so what do Miguel and other Mexicans in London do for fun? (Is that a fair question?) Also try to spot two different ways that Miguel uses the word ‘party’. Now there’s a big clue for you!

#### **Miguel Molina**

There’s not ‘a’ Mexican way of being, but some, they’re young, they have nothing else to do, so they like to party and you can find them, you know, having fun. Others that are becoming old, like me, just for fun, they could just go sit down in the garden and have a nice chat with friends and (are) no longer partying.

**Yvonne:** By the way, Miguel really isn’t that old but yes, he does enjoy a nice ‘chat’ - talking with friends in the garden – that’s if it’s not raining! We’ll look at the word ‘party’ in a moment but first did you catch that useful phrase - ‘There’s not A Mexican way of being’? That’s a lovely way to explain that not all Mexicans are the same.

#### **Miguel Molina**

There’s not ‘a’ Mexican way of being

**Yvonne:** Sometimes it's believed that people who speak the same language or are from the same continent for example, are the same. So Miguel's phrase is a good way to answer questions based on such beliefs without upsetting people. Note the way we say 'A' and 'AN' - for example, 'There's not 'a' Chinese way of being' and 'There's not 'an' Arabic way of being'.

Now onto the word 'party'. Miguel says of young Mexicans in London:

**Miguel Molina**

They have nothing to do so they like to party...

**Yvonne:** And the older Mexicans in London?

**Miguel Molina**

(They're) no longer partying.

**Yvonne:** So there's the noun 'a party' – an event when people have fun talking, playing music and dancing, for example. And we heard the word used as a verb - 'to party' and 'partying'. Do you like 'to party'? Do you like 'partying'? So you've a few things to discuss after today's London Life?!

Although London has many interesting events to go to and places to visit for free, lots of people who were born here don't actually go to them! But that's certainly not the case for people from other countries who live here. Miguel says that Mexicans living in London generally have 'a very developed taste for cultural things'. For example, they enjoy visiting places like art galleries and museums.

**Miguel Molina**

Mexicans in general, but more so Mexicans who go live abroad, not as tourists, have a very developed taste for cultural things. That is, you find them in places such as the National Gallery or the British Museum or you find them looking at historical places in London.

**Yvonne:** Are there ‘historical’ places where you live that you can easily visit but don’t? Why not?

Of course, Miguel now lives in London but where is his ‘home’ – the place where his heart really is – or even, his guitar?!

### **Miguel Molina**

I live here – this is home for me. Yes, I go back to Mexico and it’s home in Mexico as well. But home is, well... an artist would say: ‘home is where your guitar is’. I don’t have a guitar, I don’t play anything, so.... But the classics also say: ‘home is wherever you go and they have to take you in’. So I guess, in that sense, I have a home here in London and in Mexico.

**Yvonne:** Lucky man! Do you think you could be as happy living in another country? And how would you explain what ‘home’ is? Why not talk about that after today’s London Life. And for a reminder of some of the language we’ve looked at, visit us now at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com)!