

There is a volcano near my city. According to some people, it's one of the most dangerous in Ecuador. The last eruption was in 1880, and now it's active again.

The government is trying to prepare people for a potential emergency, and yesterday there was an evacuation drill in three schools in the city.

I helped in one of them.

The sirens sounded at 10am, the drill started, and the students began to leave the classrooms.

That school has over a thousand students, and all of them had to participate.

The older students had to help the younger ones to leave the facilities, and walk/juggle/run to a safe place.

I don't know how realistic it is to think that this will happen in a real emergency, but considering schools will be closed if the volcano activity increases, I didn't say anything.

The students were supposed to reach the safety area in 8 minutes.

How long do you think it took them?

8 minutes?

Of course not.

10 minutes?

Not even close.

It took them 28 minutes.

Fortunately, as I said, schools will be closed if the activity of the volcano increases, because 28 minutes is what it would take for lahars to reach the city if the eruption is too bad.

Anyway, once we all entered the *safety zone*, something happened.

A teacher started walking around, looking for a student, but he couldn't find him.

Everyone wondered what happened to him, but no one knew.

15 minutes later, the teacher told us they had found the kid.

When the drill started, I don't know if for fun, or because he got scared, the student hid in his classroom, and when we all left the school, he was left alone.

And when the teacher went back to school and found him, he was like "why did you leave me alone."

Kids...

I don't know whose fault it was, but clearly there was a miscommunication problem.

Teachers were supposed to take care of their own groups, but they also delegated some tasks to the older students, and something in that process failed.

That's why communicating clearly is important.

Luckily nothing bad happened, but we all freaked out for a moment.

And that's why I advise my friends and students who want to come to Ecuador to learn at least the basics of Spanish in order to be able to communicate with local people.

Maybe they're not kids anymore, but it's easier to get lost if you don't speak the local language.

And speaking of that, if you are planning to visit Ecuador, and want to learn or improve your Spanish first:

[Online Spanish lessons.](#)

P.S. Click the link for more information

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