

Latin America doesn't have an English problem. It has a spoken-English problem.

Rapid Fire English is the AI system that trains professionals to **speak** English under pressure, not to pass another test. Founder Monica Barrero on fluency as economic mobility, not a privilege reserved for the few.

From understanding everything and freezing in the meeting → responding in real time, in your own words, without more grammar, in your first week.

BY THE NUMBERS

The spoken-English gap, in data.

The barrier was never knowledge. It is speed under pressure. The data shows how wide the gap runs, and how fast demand is outpacing it.

70%

of Colombian students finish secondary school still at A1 or below in English. Only **4%** reach B2.

ICFES SABER 11, 2024

#1

Across Latin America, **speaking is the weakest English skill measured**, below reading, listening, and writing.

EF EPI 2025

+67%

International hiring into the region surged in 2024: Chile +67%, Argentina +54%, Brazil +53%.

DEEL / NEARSHORE AMERICAS

81%

of employers say **AI increases the need for English**, not less.

ETS / TOEIC 2026

A full **A1-C1** course runs **\$1,800-\$16,000** and still trains recognition, not speaking. Rapid Fire English trains the missing skill for **\$149.99 / year**.

Millions understand English. Then the meeting starts, and they freeze.

Across Latin America, professionals have studied English for years. They hold certificates. They understand almost everything they read and hear. Then a client calls, an interview begins, a US colleague asks a question, and the words don't come. The problem was never knowledge. It's processing speed under pressure: the gap between knowing a language and producing it in real time. And the cost is personal: the colleague who speaks up in English doesn't know more, he understands the same. His answer just comes out under pressure, and he gets the U.S. client, the promotion, the international role. That gap is trainable.

Rapid Fire English trains that gap directly. It treats fluency the way athletes treat a skill, as a reflex built through repetition, not a fact to be memorized. The result is professionals who can finally respond in the moment that matters, in their own words, without translating in their heads first.

"This isn't a course. It's training for the moment you have to respond."

Founder Monica Barrero lived the problem before she solved it. She arrived in the United States with a B2 English certificate, and couldn't answer a single question at immigration. Not for lack of English, but for lack of training in the one skill no course had built: responding under pressure. Fifteen years and a career across US multinationals later, she built the system she wished she'd had, and made it her mission that fluency become an economic equalizer, not a privilege.

You can rent knowledge, but you can't rent fluency. Once it's yours, it's yours for good.

"Puedes rentar conocimiento, pero no la fluidez. Una vez que la tienes, es tuya para siempre."

FOUNDER



Monica Barrero

Founder & CEO, Rapid Fire English

Bogotá, Colombia · U.S. citizen · ~15 years in sales, marketing & business development across industrial & energy multinationals

Monica Barrero is a Colombian founder and U.S. citizen based in Bogotá. Before Rapid Fire English, she spent roughly 15 years in sales, marketing, and business development across industrial and energy multinationals, Crane ChemPharma & Energy, Aerzen USA, and Daniel Measurement & Control, much of it leading Latin American markets: from LATAM sales and applications at Crane, to Regional Sales Manager at Aerzen USA, to Director of Marketing at Daniel Measurement & Control.

She knows the pain firsthand: she landed in the US with a B2 certificate and froze at immigration, because understanding a language is not the same as producing it under pressure. That experience became a conviction: that the barrier holding back talented Latin American professionals isn't intelligence or effort, but training in real-time response. She founded Rapid Fire English with co-founders Sal Marrone (product) and Enyor Piña (technical) to train that response directly.

SHORT BIO, FOR QUICK USE

Monica Barrero is the founder and CEO of Rapid Fire English. A Colombian founder and U.S. citizen, she spent roughly 15 years in sales, marketing, and business development across industrial and energy multinationals, Crane ChemPharma & Energy, Aerzen USA, and Daniel Measurement & Control, before building an AI system to make English fluency an economic equalizer for Latin America.

"No te falta inglés. Te falta velocidad." *You're not missing English. You're missing speed.*

THE SYSTEM

TAi + RapEx: one fluency system, two halves of the same skill.

Most tools teach you *about* English. Rapid Fire English trains you to use it: building the reflex, then putting it under pressure.



FLUENCY WORKOUTS

Builds automaticity through 130 exercises across A1-C1 with instant AI feedback, so the words come out without translating first.

Where fluency gets built.



TALKING AI · AI CONVERSATION PARTNER

A 24/7 AI partner that deploys fluency in real spoken conversation: talk as you would on a call with a friend, under real-time pressure.

Where fluency gets used.

“RapEx builds the reflex. TAi puts it under pressure. Together they create fluency that holds.”

AT A GLANCE

Company	Rapid Fire English LLC
Category	AI language / edtech, English fluency system
Headquarters	Texas, USA
Market	Latin American professionals & engineers, including US-bound TN-visa talent
Products	TAi (AI conversation partner) + RapEx (automaticity trainer)
Pricing	\$149.99 / year
Programs	Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub
Trajectory	15+ years training spoken fluency: from physical classrooms (2010) to a voice-AI platform. First app MVP in 2024; TAi now live (7 levels, 39 languages, two practice modes), with RapEx, the rapid-exercise software that trains automaticity through repetition and speed, completing the two-part fluency system.
Team	Monica Barrero (Founder & CEO) · Sal Marrone (Product Co-founder) · Enyor Piña (Technical Co-founder)
Links	rapidfireenglish.com

Six ways into the story

- 01 The spoken-English problem.** Why millions who “know” English still can’t speak it, and what the science of automaticity says about fixing it.
- 02 Fluency as economic mobility.** Closing the gap that keeps skilled LATAM talent underpaid, overlooked, and locked out of global roles.
- 03 The TN-visa opportunity.** How spoken-English training helps Latin American engineers work with, and in, the United States.
- 04 Frozen at immigration to 15 years in US multinationals.** An immigrant founder’s origin story, and the moment that started a company.
- 05 Building an AI language system in Latin America.** A solo-then-scaling founder’s path from a physical classroom in 2010 to a voice-AI platform.
- 06 Women founders in edtech and AI across Latin America.** Representation, access, and building for a market you come from.

BOILERPLATE, COPY & PASTE

Rapid Fire English is an AI fluency system that trains Latin American professionals to speak English under pressure. Built on two products that work as one, RapEx, which builds automaticity through rapid-fire exercises with instant AI feedback, and TAI, a 24/7 AI conversation partner, it targets the real barrier to fluency: processing English in real time, not passing another test. Founded by Monica Barrero, Rapid Fire English LLC exists to make fluency an economic equalizer for Latin America. Learn more at rapidfireenglish.com.

CONTACT & ASSETS

PRESS & BOOKINGS

Book Monica for an interview (English or Spanish), a guest article, or a data-led segment. She can demo the product live on air: the interview itself proves the thesis. support@asktai.ai

FOUNDER

Monica Barrero
linkedin.com/in/monica-barrero-48762a33

ONLINE

rapidfireenglish.com
Instagram @tai.rapex

ASSETS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Logos (TAI + RapEx), founder headshots, product screenshots