

My Son's First Steps

Olimjon Shomurodov

BEFORE YOU READ: The pandemic has changed daily life. Have any of those changes been positive for you? If so, describe them.

Covid-19 is everywhere now. Many people are not working. I am staying home with my family.

Now I have time to play with my son. Before the pandemic, I didn't have time to play with him. I started reading books with my son. I am learning more English by reading to him and watching TV. I bought a lot of toys for my kids. The best part of being home is I was able to see the first steps of my little son. He is 11 months old. This is the best time for me.

However, sometimes I get very scared about people getting sick. I am hurt when I read about people dying. The total of dead people in New York City is growing. When I go shopping, I wear gloves and a mask. I keep a safe distance between people.

This situation can make families stronger. Or in some cases, it can *ruin* families. We have to be patient and care about others. However, we have to remember to follow the rules of quarantine.



Olimjon Shomurodov is a Level 1 student from Free ESL, a free literacy program that is part of the Brooklyn Public Library in Brooklyn, NY. He also attends Kingsborough Community College. He is originally from Uzbekistan, and he has been living in Brooklyn with his wife and two sons since 2018.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. Discuss what the word "ruin" means. Can you tell from the context? Use it in several sentences.
2. Study the author's use of the word "however" at the start of the third paragraph. Why does he use this word to transition to this paragraph?
3. Read the article on p. 13 by Paula Alfes. Both articles express a tension between what has been negative and positive about the pandemic. (Note Paula's use of "however" in her last paragraph.) Write a sentence describing two sides of the pandemic. Use "however" in your sentence.