

English Class: My New Family

Mina Aslami

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. What do you think it means that the author's English class is her "new family"?
2. An adjective is the part of speech that describes a noun. As you read, notice the adjectives in **bold**.

Excited But Crying

My husband and I came from Afghanistan. We landed in New York City. We took a bus to Amherst. I was so excited to see so **many new** things: **tall** buildings, **green** trees, and **huge** highways. I was excited to be here, but I was crying and missing my family.

Not One Word of English

I did not speak **one** word of English before I arrived in the United States. When I took my **first English** class, I drew on paper the words that my teachers wrote on the board. I brought them home, and my husband and my brother translated for me.

Not Alone

My teachers and mentors in English class were very supportive and kind. They helped me with their smiles. They were always patient with me. They were helpful in the class *and* in my personal life. For instance, I recently had to move to a **new** apartment, and they all helped me search for an **appropriate** place.

Even though I am away from my country and my family, the connection to my English class helped me feel that I was never alone. My teachers, tutors, and classmates were my **new** family. I am so grateful to these **amazing** people.

Mina Aslami came to the U.S. from Afghanistan in 2012. She is a student at the Literacy Project in Amherst, MA. Mina's goal is to improve her language proficiency to pursue college-level education in the U.S.



AFTER YOU READ:

1. What emotions does Mina express in the first paragraph? How do you know?
2. In the second paragraph, what strategy does Mina use to start learning English?
3. According to the information in the third and fourth paragraphs, in what ways does Mina's English class act like family?
4. Note the adjectives in **bold**. Circle other adjectives that you see. Write your own sentences with adjectives. Try writing a few sentences that have more than one adjective in a row. (For example, in this article, you see "**many new things**" and "**first English class**.")