

# I Need to Continue with My Life

Lidia Martinez

#### **BEFORE YOU READ:**

- **1.** Learn the word *fortunately*. Try using it and its opposite (*unfortunately*) in a few sentences.
- **2.** Practice more vocabulary: *frustrated*, *encouraged*, and *sincere*. Learn these words. Talk about a time you felt *frustrated* with technology. What *encouraged* you to keep trying? Use *sincere* and its opposite (*insincere*) in a few sentences.
- **3.** What do you think the author means by the title? Re-state it in your own words.

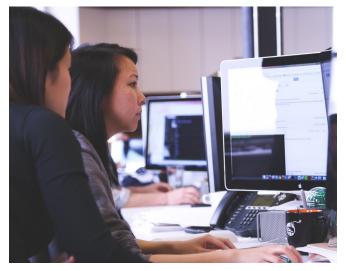
### No More Children to Take Care Of

Last summer, my youngest grandchild started kindergarten. There are no more kids to take care of in my home. Now I have more time for myself. It's time to go back to school. I was looking for an English class, and *fortunately* my neighbor told me about a free school near my house. That was great for me because I do not have much money. I signed up for class, and I was excited to start my first day.

#### I Wanted to Run!

But then something happened. Nobody warned me that we must use a computer in class and for our homework. I never used a computer at home or at work. I felt angry with myself. I wanted to go home and cry and not return to my English class. The first two weeks were tough for me. Sometimes in the middle of the class, I wanted to stand up and run to my house. However, I continued going to the class.

One day, I told my daughter I would no longer attend my English class. I said, "I like the English class but I can't work on the computer." The teacher and my classmates always help me with the computer, but I feel *frustrated* because I don't learn the steps quickly. My daughter gave



Digital literacy is a central part of adult education.

me her old computer and taught me a few things. She, my sister, and my brother *encouraged* me to continue attending my English class. I decided to continue.

## A New Challenge

My brother has been married for almost 50 years. He always looks happy with his wife and children. He is a *sincere*, religious, hardworking man dedicated to his family. My *sister-in-law* is an honest, spiritual, lovely woman dedicated to her family too. She is very sick now; she is in bed. Doctors say there is nothing more they can do for her. We are very sad about it. I am helping my brother to take care of her. Every day, I go to my brother's house. I cook, clean, and spend time with my sister-in-law.

When my brother asked me for help to attend to his wife at home, I thought about quitting my English classes and not seeing my grandchildren on Sundays. However, I need to continue with my life, and I need some time for myself. Besides, when I am with my grandchildren or when I am



in my English class, I forget every other thing, at least for that time. No matter what happens, I believe in God; I have faith and hope.

#### AFTER YOU READ:

- **1.** How does the author get help to improve her digital literacy skills?
- **2.** When her sister-in-law gets sick, she thinks about quitting English class but she does not. Why doesn't she quit?
- **3.** In this piece, the author shows a lot of emotional intelligence an important transferable skill. Read more about emotional intelligence in Issue 60, pp. 30-35.

Lidia Martinez is a student at Ysleta Community Learning Center in El Paso, Texas. She was born in a big and loving family; she is the fourth of ten brothers and sisters. She has always liked reading and writing and she hopes one day she can speak English fluently.



The author with her family at her 70th birthday party.

## **Who Are Your In-Laws?**

Do you have a sibling who is married or who has a partner? This person is your brother- or sister-in-law. Do you have a spouse or partner who has a mother or father? These people would be your mother- or father-in-law. Do you have a child who is married or has a partner? This person would be your son- or daughter-in law.

Your "in-laws" are related to you by marriage, not by blood.

Try any of these activities to practice this vocabulary:

- Talk with a partner about your in-laws.
- Make a family tree that includes in-laws and other relations.
- Write a paragraph or essay about one of your in-laws.

In addition to biological family members and in-laws, we also have "chosen" family. These are people we choose to make family with. Who are your chosen family members?



