



Learner's Name: Sal Ophir-Kedar

Age: 10

Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Can you tell me what your home and family are like?

I live with my mom and dad. My grandma and grandpa live with us too. And so do my aunt and uncle and three cousins. It sounds like a lot of people, but it's really not that many. I share a room with my one cousin, Rami. We get along pretty well.

My dad's a lawyer and my mom runs a grocery. The rest of the family helps her, and she even lets me help her sometimes. I love it because sometimes we turn it into games, and she'll have me spell the name of a food or she'll ask me something like, "How much cheese could someone buy with \$10?" And when she's busy and we're not playing games, I get to put my audiophones on and listen to whatever I want.

Can you tell me more about your family?

My parents were both born in Syria, but they moved here after they got married because there were a lot of revolutions back then and people would get hurt or scared. My dad had to study more for awhile, and then when they got enough money they opened their grocery and had my grandparents and aunt and uncle to come live with us. And then my aunt starting having my cousins really soon after they got here.

Sometimes I think they all miss their old home, because when they tell me stories they seem happy to remember. And I love when they tell me stories because I really like learning about where we came from. And even though I've never been to Syria, I feel like I know it through the stories and through the food. My family loves to make the food they grew up with.

How do you like to learn?

I like to do lots of things at once, so one of my favorite ways to learn things is by listening to audio casts while I do my chores. And then when I've learned something, my mom or one of my learning agents will make me show them. Like my learning fitness instructor, she had me show her how I decided to sit when meditating so that I can concentrate better. And my learning journey mentor wants to see my blogs after I've read and written about a book I liked. And if I need help with anything, they'll help me. But I get to learn how I want to learn.

How would you describe your current learning experiences?

I do my learning online, which I really like. It's where I get my audio casts. Plus I get videos there and I can video chat with my learning agents. Sometimes, if we're both online, we can just chat then, when

we feel like it. Other times we have to pick a time to meet. So I get assignments from my learning agents, and then I learn by listening to the audio casts and watching the videos and chatting with them. And then I practice with my family or my learning agents, and they help me when I need it. Like, I don't need a lot of help with history, but I usually need help with math.

My learning agents don't all work for the same place, I guess. My mom and dad set up a mix of different people for me after we all talked to this lady they called a personal education advisor. Every few months we talk to her again and see how it's going. Last month, I got to add a new track on history because I did really well with the basic social studies activity we'd set up. Next, a group of kids who live around here is going to get to go around with an adult and tag regular old buildings with stuff about their stories and the people who used to live in them. That's going to be pretty awesome. We'll even get to see some old stuff from back then and make our own multi-media history of what we find out.

Can you tell me more about your learning experiences?

I really like that I can learn wherever I am, as long as I have my audio player or tablet. I like to learn in the park, in my room, on my tablet, and whenever we go on trips. And I like that I get to figure things out myself.

Sometimes, though, I wish I was learning with other kids more. I told my mom that once, and she found a group of other online learners that I hang out with now. Sometimes we on go on trips or go to see our learning agents at the same time, so it's kind of like being in a learning experience together. My favorite trip so far was when some learning agents took me and some other kids to go help build a ramp in the skate park. We had to show each other what we knew about math in order to get it right. And I really liked the time one of the learning agents took us to the lake, where we helped the ranger catch fish so he'd know how many of which kind were in the lake.

What do you like best?

I just like to learn. I like to be able to teach my little cousins, and to show my family the things I learn.

What you want to do when you get older?

Someday, I want to go and see where my parents came from. And then I want to see lots of different countries around the world. And maybe I'll make my own audio casts or videos for people. And I'll create my own website like the ones we use for learning – and people will be able to learn all sorts of things.

What worries you as you think about the future?

I don't know. Sometimes my dad thinks I don't concentrate hard enough. That's why I had to learn to meditate. Do you want to see me do it? It's like, close my eyes, take a deep breath, then I say "Ohm" a few times and I have to sit still for two whole minutes. Sometimes I lose count. Do you think there could be fighting here like where my mom and dad came from? I like living here and hope I never have to move. My friend Jimmy has to move to Denver soon, and I'm afraid I won't see him again except online.