

When I arrived in The United States, I did not speak

English at all. I felt lost and afraid because I could not communicate. My first job was pushing carts at Walmart, and during the interview I had to use my phone translator. Every day was very hard.

Customers talked to me and I could not answer.

Simple things like buying food or going to the bank felt overwhelming.

My life began to change when I joined Vermont Adult Learning. They opened their doors to me and gave me the opportunity to start English classes for beginners.

From the first day, my teacher showed great patience, care, and commitment. She never gave up on me, even when I made mistakes or felt frustrated. Step by step, I began to learn, and after a few months, I was able to understand people and help customers at work. I gained confidence and for the first time, I felt that I belonged here.

As my English improved, I was able to take driving lessons, follow instructions, and earn my

JAFET ESPINOZA, RUTLAND CITY, VAL-RUTLAND 5/26/2026
driver's license. My progress was noticed at 2012
work, and I was given a new opportunity in
the Home department at Walmart. Today, I am in
the intermediate level of English. I can speak, read, and
write. I can go to the bank, the supermarket, and restaurants
without fear or a translator. I have also been promoted
at my job.

All of this happened in just one year thanks to Vermont
Adult Learning. They did not only teach me English, they gave me
confidence, independence, and hope. Thank you for opening the door
to people like me who want a better life and a real change,
and for having teachers who teach with patience, respect, and
heart. My dream is to continue learning and, one day,
give back by teaching math and Spanish at Vermont Adult
Learning, helping ~~me~~ others the same way they helped me
become part of this community. I truly hope the Vermont
state Legislature continues to support programs like this,
because they truly change lives.

"Wherever you go.

Go with all your heart"

From: JAFET Espinoza