

Before my life as a bilingual, I only spoke Portuguese with my family and my friends. I have been in the U.S once before to visit. When I arrived here the a second time, I came to live here. I was looking forward to learning English.

During my first visit to America, I felt that I was in a whole different world. I heard people talking but didn't know the meaning of what they said. I tried to learn English so that I could have a conversation with someone besides my family, but I wasn't attending school yet. It was not until five years later when I came to America for the second time and stayed that I started to attend school. The reason that I came to America the first time was to visit my mom and my dad because they were working here. They had another child, my brother. I had never met him, and he was four years old. I only stayed for a year, and then I went back to Brazil alone. My mom stayed so she could work and earn money because our situation was hard in Brazil. My grandma took care of me, she was like my second mom. I always respected her, she was a hard working women that took care of me most of my life.

A couple of years later, my mom came back from the U.S because her father had died. She stayed in Brazil with my little brother and I while my dad moved to Canada. A couple of year later, he then came here to live with us in Brazil. He found a small town to settle in. My Dad had owned a big farm. Everyday he woke up early in the morning to go to work. Years after that my family moved to the U.S to find a job and work really hard to make our education better. My family also wanted to have enough money to send to Brazil so my dad's most trusted friend could buy the materials to make a house

on the farm. My dad's plan was when we graduate college that we move back to Brazil and have a place to settle in.

When I went to school in America, I went to ESL. ESL is a program that helped kids who didn't know English. There I met a bunch of Brazilian kids and we became friends. We helped each other with our English and school work. I was lucky that my childhood friend from Brazil was in the same school as me. When I arrived at the U.S., he lived near me and was my only friend. We had traveled on the same plane to come here when we were five. He stayed here, so his English was stronger. My childhood friend also helped me with my English work, and we talked using both of our languages, English and Portuguese. Ever since I've been here he and I have been talking and texting each other and catching up. He has helped me talk to kids and to make friends.

In the future, my being bilingual could be useful for a job that requires the person to know more languages. I would like to be a lawyer. My language skills will be useful to help Brazilian people who don't know English. Also, the higher paying jobs will require the person to know more than one language. This makes me feel that I will have an advantage over the other people who will apply for the job. I will continue to work on learning English and Portuguese. I am also working on learning French. The more languages that I know will give me have a higher chance getting a higher paying job. Being bilingual has been a lot of work, but the rewards are great.

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