

AMINA

Background

Amina is in her late forties. She is from Sudan and has lived in the UK for 2 years. She lives with her husband and three of her children. She had an accident while in Sudan that means she has problems with her memory.

Languages

Her first language is Arabic, and she also speaks a local dialect of Arabic. She can read and write in Arabic. When she came to the UK she could recognise a few words of English but could not speak or understand anything.

Digital technologies

She uses a smartphone but does not use a computer with a keyboard. She uses it to translate, to watch videos and talk to her family in Sudan.

Previous education and employment

She went to school until she was sixteen. She learnt some English at school, but only how to translate from English to Arabic rather than how to communicate.

Access to ESOL

She has been attending a pre-Entry ESOL class at a college for six months and studies for nine hours a week. The job centre recommended the college to her. She lives close to the college which is important for her as she finds directions difficult. She was very worried before she came to class for the first time because she did not know anyone and thought she would never be able to learn English.

Engagement in ESOL provision

She can speak a little but only words and not sentences. She finds it difficult to remember the alphabet but can now read and write some small words. She needs to have everything repeated lots of times and likes it when the teacher goes very slowly. She enjoys group work because then everyone can help each other.

Outcomes and benefits

She does not speak English very much outside of the class because she is too nervous. But she feels better about herself and much more confident because she was told her memory would never improve and now she's managing to learn English. She wants to volunteer for the Red Cross when her English is better.

Advice to others

Don't be scared because nothing is impossible, and anyone can learn.

Level New learner (Emerging Entry 1)