



## A New Beginning



My name is Isilda and I was born in Angola which is in Africa. My parents had to leave the country because there was a civil war happening. I was three years old when we left Angola and we moved to Portugal.

We had lived in Portugal for seven years, when my dad got a contract to go and work in Australia. We all shifted to Australia, so my parents could give us a better life. I was ten years old when we came to Australia, and my family and I didn't speak English at all.

I have three sisters and one brother and I'm the second oldest. I went to Beaconsfield Primary School and I was put into year 5 and I didn't speak English at all. So I used to go to a special English classroom where they taught you basic English.

I had three years at primary school to learn English and other subjects. Then I went to South Fremantle High School and I struggled with my subjects because of my English. I didn't get much help with my English, while I was in high school. I had to do it on my own.

My parents had my sisters and I learning Portuguese every Saturday, so we wouldn't forget our language. I wished that I had learned English instead, because I would be more confident speaking English, and I could've done better on my studies and got good grades.

Now I'm married and I have two beautiful boys. Their names are Justin and Michael. The oldest is seven years old and the youngest is four, going on five years old. Before I had my kids, I worked as a shop assistant, then when I had my second child, I stopped working so I could look after the boys.

Now that both of them go to school, I have decided to go back to work. I wasn't sure whether to go back as a shop assistant or to try to become a teacher's assistant. I decided to do Certificate 3 in Education Support.

I thought it was going to be a challenge, so I asked for a Read Write Now tutor to help me. She helped to explain what I had to do with my assignments and helped me to draft my answers and correct the spelling and punctuation. I have now finished doing the course and I got the certificate!

I am proud of myself for doing it. Now I am working as a relief assistant at the local school.

*Isilda*

## Activities

**True or False?** *Circle T for True, or F for False.*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Isilda was seven years of age when her family moved to Australia. | T | F |
| 2. There are five children in Isilda's family.                       | T | F |
| 3. The language which Isilda spoke in Angola was Angolan.            | T | F |
| 4. Isilda's family left Angola because of a war.                     | T | F |
| 5. Isilda has now become a shop assistant.                           | T | F |
| 6. Isilda has two sons.  | T | F |

## The Order of Information

*Number the paragraphs from 1 to 9.*

*Each paragraph has a dominant topic. If they each had a heading or title, which paragraph would have each of these headings?*

1. Decisions, Decisions!
2. English Language or Portuguese?
3. My Children
4. Moving from my Homeland
5. Succeeding with Study

## Verb Tenses

This story makes use of the **past** tense and the **present** tense. In paragraph one, there are three sentences. Circle the tense of each sentence (Past or Present?).

Sentence 1: *Past Present*    Sentence 2: *Past Present*    Sentence 3: *Past Present*

Now look at paragraph 3. It has three sentences. Identify the tense of each sentence (Past or Present?) in paragraph 3. Circle either *Past* or *Present* for each sentence.

Sentence 1: *Past Present*    Sentence 2: *Past Present*    Sentence 3: *Past Present*

## Spelling Correction

Proofread this paragraph for spelling or punctuation mistakes. See how many errors you can find without comparing this paragraph to the original. There are 10 mistakes.

Now Im married and I have too bueatiful boys. There names are Justin and Michael. The oldest is seven years old and the yungest is for, going on five years old. Befor I had my kids, I workd as a shop asistant, then when I had my second child, I stoppt working so I could look after the boys.

**Now write the correct spelling under each wrong word (above).**

**Discuss the drafting process with your tutor.** In the text, Isilda writes about her tutor:

*(She) helped me to draft my answers and correct my spelling and punctuation.*

List the steps **you** take, when you are drafting an answer or a piece of writing.

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## Dictionary Skills

Discuss with your tutor the various meanings of the following words – and which meaning applies in this story. **Which 4 of these words could (also) be used as a verb?**

civil      contract      primary      subjects      grades      correct      local



## Map Activities

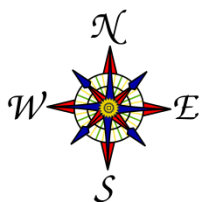
When Isilda's family left Angola, they went to **Portugal**.

Find **Portugal** on this map of Western Europe.

Portugal is to the west of Spain.

Can you find Isilda's birth country, **Angola**, on this map of Africa (below)?

To travel from Angola to Portugal, the family went *north* and across the Mediterranean Sea (not shown on these maps).



**Now use this compass (to the left). Suggested Activity:** Tutor to ask direction of travel, if moving between countries on 1 map at a time: eg, From Mauritania to Egypt is.....(What direction?), From Ireland to Spain is... (What direction?)

From **Portugal** (in Western Europe), the family moved to **Western Australia**, which you can just see, at the bottom right of this map. Together with your tutor, work out where Portugal would be, in relation to this map of the Indian Ocean.



If you were comfortable working out simple compass directions on the first two maps (ie, North, South, East & West), you might now like to challenge yourself to do more complex directions. For example, to go from Portugal to Australia via the shortest route, requires travel in 2 directions simultaneously: **south AND east**.

We refer to this as **South-east**.

