

Before You Watch **Discussion Questions**

1. Before we watch the episode, let's talk about work for a moment and the start of our working lives. What was your first job?
2. Was it a part-time job? Was it a full-time job?
3. How old were you when you got your first job? Were you a student at the time?
4. Why did you get the job?
5. How did you get the job?
6. What did you learn from the experience?
7. What about non-paying work such as volunteering in the community? Have you ever done it? What was your experience?
8. Why did you volunteer? What did you learn from the experience?
9. One last question: the title of the episode is *Shumi's Pantry*. What do you think that may mean?

Let's watch *Shumi's Pantry*. Let's find out what the title means, and see what Shumi learns from her experience.

After You Watch

Discussion Questions

Customer Service: When and How to Advise Customers

Shumi wants to help people eat well. However, she gets into trouble when she gives customers advice about food purchases.

- When do you think it is appropriate to give advice to customers? How could Shumi do it in a more appropriate way? What words and phrases are useful for giving suggestions?

Food Help Programs and Concerns about Eligibility and Access

Shumi learns about the food program SNAP and about food pantries. Food pantries are for anyone who needs food right away. You don't need to apply to get food at a food pantry. You need to apply for SNAP and there are some eligibility requirements.

- In the episode, Shumi's mother is reluctant to apply for SNAP. Why do you think she is reluctant? What do you think she should do?

If students ask about eligibility requirements for SNAP or other social services, refer them to the website [access.nyc.gov](https://www.access.nyc.gov). If the organization where the class is held has a social worker or legal service provider, suggest that the students speak with them to learn about eligibility for Federal benefits such as SNAP. They can also ask about other programs that may be available to them.

Volunteering

Shumi volunteers at a food pantry. Volunteerism is a feature of American culture. Our Conversation Class is led by volunteers!

- Why do you think people volunteer? What are the benefits of volunteering? Have you ever volunteered—here in New York or in your country of origin? If you would like to volunteer, what kind of volunteering would you do? Why?

Education: Goals and Opportunities

Gabriela goes to free ESOL classes at the library. She also wants to get an High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma. She encourages Umme to find a nursing program, so Umme can achieve her goal of being a nurse again.

- What are your educational goals? What steps do you need to take to meet your goals? Where can you find out about programs? Who can help you? What challenges do you face in pursuing your goals? How do you balance work, family and school?