

John Li

work on present vs  
post tense

The farmers market had finally begun.

He had into  
two pockets?

As the horde of kids entered the school room, I dug my hand into my pockets and pulled out my hard-earned cash. Frantically scanning each vendor, my eyes locked onto the treasure – Ms. Hoang and her apples. I hurried my short six-year-old legs towards the mob who were bombarding the teacher.

Eventually making it to the front, I slammed the monopoly money against the table and left with ten fresh apples in my bag along with my empty Spiderman wallet. After that single transaction, I began heading towards the exit.

In the hallway, I rushed towards my mom and excitedly showed her my spoils of war.

“Look at what I have! We can have ten yummy apples for dinner,” I managed to suggest before being scolded.

“WHY DIDN’T YOU LISTEN TO ME? I TOLD YOU TO GET BOK CHOY AND CARROTS!”

As my mom continues to ramble on about obedience, I begin to salivate about the sweet and juicy sensation from the fruit.

I don't know but it led to  
the positive experience

Later that night, we sliced open the apple and began enjoying its flavor. In the moment, I had proved her wrong – by following my intuition, it led to a positive experience for her and I. Being so young, never have I made my own decisions. At the age of six, I began to fall in love with the farmers market at my elementary school.

While I ate the rest of the apples that week, I discovered more about myself from that event. Taking the next step forward, I had a clearer lifelong objective – the aspiration to love your work, while having it impact others. However, I must prioritize my own passions and interests rather than the opinions and negative stigma behind it, just like I did with the apple.