

I Want to Buy a Computer Game

by Susan LaBella



Luis was excited. The new computer game he wanted was finally in stores. "The game is here!" he told his mom. "Can we go buy it?"

"How much does it cost?" Luis's mother asked.

"Thirty-five dollars," he replied.

"That is a lot of money, Luis. Do you have enough to buy it yourself?"

He shook his head.

"You know, Luis, we have to spend our money carefully. We have to pay for our house and food. We need to buy clothing and books and gas for our car. Our money goes to things we need."

"But I really want this game!" answered Luis. "What can I do?"

"You get eight dollars a week for doing chores," his mom said. "Try to save it. Before long, you will have enough to pay for the game."

"I do not think so," said Luis. "By then, all the games will be sold."

"Try it," replied his mother.

Weeks later, Luis came home very happy. "Guess what, Mama? I did what you said. I saved my chore money. Then I saw the game was on sale. Today I bought it for twenty-eight dollars."

"And," his mother added, "you did it with your own money!"

Vocabulary

sale

noun

definition: When a store has a sale, the store is selling things for a lower price than usual.

Spanish: venta, barata

save

verb

definition: When you save something, you keep it to use at a later time.

Spanish: guardar, ahorrar

forms: saved, saves, saving

spend

verb

definition: When you spend money, you use money to buy things.

Spanish: gastar

forms: spending, spends, spent

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why was Luis excited at the start of the story?

- A. He managed to save up thirty-five dollars.
- B. The new computer game he wanted was in stores.
- C. His mother bought him a computer game as a gift.

2. What is the main problem Luis faces in the story?

- A. He wants a new computer game, but the store has run out of that game.
- B. He wants a new computer game, but he doesn't have enough money to buy it.
- C. He wants a new computer game, but his mother hates all computer games.

3. Read this statement that Luis's mom said to Luis.

"You know, Luis, we have to spend our money carefully. We have to pay for our house and food. We need to buy clothing and books and gas for our car. Our money goes to things we need."

What conclusion can you draw from this evidence?

- A. A house and food are things that Luis's family needs.
- B. Luis's mom doesn't want to buy clothing, books, and gas for the car.
- C. Having clothing, books, and gas is more important than having a house and food.

4. How does Luis's mom most likely feel about the computer game?

- A. She feels excited because she wants to play the game, too.
- B. She feels angry that Luis wants to spend his money on a game.
- C. She feels like the game is not something that Luis really needs.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A. The computer game that Luis wants costs thirty-five dollars.
- B. Luis wants a new computer game, so he saves up money to buy it.
- C. Luis's mom has to spend money on things like food, clothing, and the house.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Luis was excited. The new computer game he wanted was finally in stores. 'The game is here!' he told his mom. 'Can we go buy it?'"

Why might the author have used an exclamation point when Luis tells his mother that the game is here?

- A. to show that Luis is very excited
- B. to show that Luis's mom is very excited
- C. to show that the game is really fun to play

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"'You get eight dollars a week for doing chores,' his mom said. 'Try to save it. Before long, you will have enough to pay for the game.'"

What does the word "it" in the second sentence refer to?

- A. the chores
- B. the eight dollars
- C. the week

8. Why doesn't Luis's mother buy the computer game when Luis first asks her for it?

9. Read these sentences from the text.

"Weeks later, Luis came home very happy. 'Guess what, Mama? I did what you said. I saved my chore money. Then I saw the game was on sale. Today I bought it for twenty-eight dollars.'

"'And,' his mother added, 'you did it with your own money!'"

How does Luis's mother probably feel about Luis saving up his money to buy the computer game?

10. This story suggests that it is a good idea to save up your extra money to buy things that you want. Why might this be a good idea? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.