

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

La bicicleta roja

An A2 story about a missing bicycle, careful problem-solving, and a neighborhood that chooses to help.

NOTICE

SEARCH

HELP

APRENDE GRATIS EN [EZINGLES.COM](https://ezingles.com)

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Tomás finishes work and discovers that his red bicycle is gone. Read to learn how his neighbors help him solve the problem.

Before you begin

What should you do when something important is missing?

Reading goal

Notice vocabulary for bicycles, reporting a problem, and organizing community help.

THE STORY · PART 1

An empty bike rack

Tomás used his red bicycle to travel everywhere. He rode it to college, to work, and to visit friends.

On Tuesday evening, he left the grocery store and walked toward the **bike rack**. His bicycle was gone.

Only the broken **lock** remained on the ground.

Tomás checked the next street, hoping he had parked somewhere else. Then he remembered clearly: he had attached the bicycle beside a blue one.

He felt angry and **frustrated**. The bicycle was old, but he had repaired it with his father.

A security guard came outside. 'Let us check the **camera footage**,' she said.

The video showed a teenager cutting the lock and riding away. His face was hidden, but he wore a green backpack.

The guard helped Tomás make a police **report**. She also suggested posting a photo in the neighborhood group.

Tomás found an old picture of the bicycle and wrote its color, size, and a scratch near the front wheel.

THE STORY · PART 2

The neighborhood searches

Within an hour, neighbors began sharing the post. A bicycle shop owner offered to watch for anyone trying to sell it.

Tomás's friend Maya created a simple **poster** with the photo and his contact number.

The next morning, a bus driver sent a message. He had seen a similar bicycle near a community park.

Tomás wanted to go immediately, but the police officer told him not to **confront** anyone alone.

He and Maya walked around the public paths. Behind a picnic shelter, they found a red bicycle.

At first, Tomás thought it was his. Then he noticed that the seat and wheels were different.

'We need to check the details, not only the color,' Maya said.

That afternoon, another neighbor reported a red bicycle beside an apartment **dumpster**.

This time, the scratch near the wheel matched. Tomás also checked the serial number he had saved on his phone.

It was his bicycle, but the chain was damaged and the front light was missing.

THE STORY · PART 3

More than a repair

The police collected the bicycle and later returned it to Tomás. The person who had taken it was not nearby.

Tomás carried it to the local repair shop. The owner examined the **damage**.

‘The repair will cost about sixty dollars,’ she said.

Tomás did not have enough money, but several neighbors had followed the search.

One donated a stronger lock. Another paid for a new light. The shop owner reduced the repair **cost**.

On Saturday, Tomás collected the bicycle. It looked better than before.

He thanked everyone in the neighborhood group and shared three safety tips: record the serial number, use a strong lock, and park in a visible place.

The experience had been stressful, but it showed him how quickly a community could **respond** when people shared useful information.

A month later, Tomás helped another neighbor search for a missing dog.

He had received help when he needed it, and now he understood the importance of returning that kindness.

A community becomes stronger each time someone decides to help.

Words for problems and community help

bike rack	estacionamiento para bicicletas
lock	candado
frustrated	frustrado/a
camera footage	grabación de cámara
report	reporte / denuncia
poster	cartel
confront	enfrentar
dumpster	contenedor de basura
damage	daño
cost	costo
respond	responder

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose

1. Where does Tomás discover the bicycle is missing? a) College b) Grocery store c) Park
2. What color backpack appears in the video? a) Green b) Red c) Black
3. How does Tomás identify his bicycle? a) Only the color b) The price c) A scratch and serial number
4. Who reduces the repair cost? a) The officer b) The shop owner c) The driver

B. True or false

1. Tomás finds the correct bicycle on his first search. TRUE / FALSE
2. The community helps pay for repairs. TRUE / FALSE
3. Tomás later helps another neighbor. TRUE / FALSE

C. Write

List three bicycle-safety tips. Describe one way neighbors can help solve a community problem.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. 1. b 2. a 3. c 4. b

B. 1. False 2. True 3. True

Suggested answer

Record the serial number, use a strong lock, and park in a visible place. Neighbors can share accurate information, report sightings, and offer practical help.

KEEP GOING

Practice: My bicycle is missing. It is red and has a scratch near the wheel.