

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

Veinte dólares de más

An A2 story about a cashier's mistake, a difficult choice, and the quiet value of doing what is right.

NOTICE

CHOOSE

RETURN

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

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Marco receives too much change after buying groceries. Read to discover what he decides to do and why the decision matters.

Before you begin

What would you do if a cashier gave you too much money? Explain.

Meet Marco

Marco is 17 and works weekends to save money for a used bicycle. He carefully tracks every dollar he earns and spends.

Reading goal

Notice shopping vocabulary and phrases for explaining choices and consequences.

THE STORY · PART 1

The wrong change

On Sunday afternoon, Marco went to a busy supermarket. He needed bread, fruit, milk, and rice.

At the **checkout**, a tired cashier scanned his groceries. The total was \$18.47.

Marco paid with two twenty-dollar bills. The cashier handed him a receipt and a few bills.

Outside, Marco counted his **change**. Instead of \$21.53, he had received \$41.53.

There were twenty dollars **extra**.

For a moment, Marco felt excited. He was only thirty dollars away from buying the bicycle he wanted.

'The store will not notice,' he thought. The supermarket was large, and twenty dollars seemed small.

Then he looked at the **receipt**. The cashier's name was Elaine.

Marco remembered how rushed she had looked. If her register was short, she might be blamed for the **mistake**.

He put the money in his pocket but did not walk home.

THE STORY · PART 2

Two voices

Marco sat on a bench near the entrance. One thought said, 'Keep it. You did not cause the error.'

Another thought said, 'You know the money is not yours.'

He called his older sister, Ana, and explained the **situation**.

'What do you think I should do?' he asked.

Ana answered with a question: 'If you keep it, will you feel comfortable spending it?'

Marco imagined buying the bicycle. Each time he rode it, he would remember the cashier.

'No,' he admitted.

'Then you already know your answer,' Ana said.

Marco returned to the customer-service **counter**. He showed the employee his receipt and the extra bill.

'The cashier gave me twenty dollars too much,' he explained.

The employee called a **supervisor**, who checked the register. Elaine had accidentally entered sixty dollars instead of forty.

THE STORY · PART 3

Money returned

Elaine came to the counter. 'Thank you for coming back,' she said with **relief**. 'I am new, and I was worried my register would be short.'

Marco returned the twenty-dollar bill.

The supervisor corrected the record and gave Marco a small store coupon as a thank-you.

'You made an **honest** choice when no one was watching,' she said.

On the way home, Marco still did not have enough money for the bicycle. However, he felt lighter than he had on the bench.

The following week, Marco told his manager what had happened. His manager offered him an extra Saturday shift.

After two more weeks of work, Marco finally bought the bicycle with money he had truly earned.

The extra twenty dollars could have helped him reach his goal faster, but returning it protected something more valuable: his **trust** in himself.

He understood that honesty is not only about following rules. It is about deciding what kind of person you want to be.

A good decision still matters when nobody else knows about it.

Words for shopping and honesty

checkout	caja
change	cambio
extra	adicional / de más
receipt	recibo
mistake	error
situation	situación
counter	mostrador
supervisor	supervisor/a
relief	alivio
honest	honesto/a
trust	confianza

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose

1. What is Marco saving for? a) A phone b) A bicycle c) A car
2. How much extra change does he receive? a) \$10 b) \$20 c) \$40
3. Who does Marco call? a) His sister b) His manager c) The cashier
4. Why is Elaine relieved? a) Her shift ends b) The money is returned c) Marco buys more food

B. True or false

1. Marco causes the cashier's error. TRUE / FALSE
2. The supervisor checks the register. TRUE / FALSE
3. Marco never buys the bicycle. TRUE / FALSE

C. Think and write

Why does Marco return the money? Describe a time when honesty was difficult but important.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

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

B. 1. False 2. True 3. False

Suggested answer

Marco returns the money because he knows it is not his and realizes the cashier may be blamed. Keeping it would make him uncomfortable and damage his trust in himself.

KEEP GOING

Practice: I received too much change. I would like to return it.