

## Story

# Chug-a Chug-a Choo Choose

Louis is on the train with Mama. They're going home after visiting Grandma's house. Louis loves trains. He loves the sounds they make, how fast they go, and how it feels to look out the window. Grandma gave Louis \$50 for his birthday. He's going to use that **money** to buy a toy train.

Mama takes out her smartphone. She says, "Why don't we look at toy trains online? We can **compare costs** to see which toy train is best for you."

First, Mama finds an **online store** that sells toy trains. Louis finds one that he likes. It costs \$35. "What about this one, Mama?" asks Louis.

"That's a nice one. But if you buy it, you have to pay \$5 for shipping and you'll have to wait a few days for it to arrive. It has to travel a long way to get to us, which isn't very good for the planet," answers Mama.

Next, Mama shows Louis the website for the local toy store. It has another train Louis likes. This train costs \$41. "This one's in your **budget** and it's made in Canada," says Mama.



“Could we go buy it tomorrow on our way home from school?” asks Louis.

“Yes! And we’ll support a **local business**, which is good for the community,” answers Mama.

Finally, Mama opens an **online marketplace** on her smartphone. Louis finds a toy train he likes for \$30. The family selling the train lives in their neighbourhood. “If I buy this one, I’ll have the most money left over,” says Louis.

“That’s right. And we could probably go pick it up on the weekend,” says Mama. “Buying things people don’t need anymore usually costs less than buying the same thing new. And, fewer things go into the trash.”

Mama and Louis take another look at the three toy trains. Together, they compare **prices** to find the best **deal**. Louis makes a pros and cons list:

Cost	Pro	Con
\$40	Delivered to my house	Comes from far away \$5 for shipping
\$41	Can walk to the store and buy it tomorrow	Costs the most
\$30	Best price	Can't pick it up until the weekend

1. **Train from online store:**

**Cost:**

\$35 + \$5 for shipping = \$40

**Pro:**

Delivered to my house

**Con:**

Comes from far away

2. **Train from local toy store:**

**Cost:**

\$41

**Pro:**

Can walk to the store  
and buy it tomorrow

**Con:**

Costs the most

3. **Train from online marketplace:**

**Cost:**

\$30

**Pro:**

Best price

**Con:**

Can't pick it up until  
the weekend

Louis decides to buy the toy train from the online marketplace because it's the lowest price. It costs \$30, which means he'll have \$20 left over. He thinks it's a good deal and he loves the train he chose. Louis knows he made the right choice because Mama helped him compare prices and think about important things like caring for the planet and shopping local.

"What are you going to do with the money you have left over, Louis?" asks Mama.

"I'm going to **save** up to buy a set of train tracks!" says Louis.

"Of course!" says Mama.

## Glossary: Definitions of story words

**Budget:** The amount of money you have to spend on something.

**Compare:** To look at different options.

**Cost:** How much money you need to buy something.

**Deal:** The best choice for your money.

**Online marketplace:** A website where you can buy and sell new and used things.

**Local business:** A small business in a neighbourhood that isn't part of a chain of stores with the same name.

**Money:** Coins and bills that are used to pay for things, or to pay someone for their work.

**Online store:** A website that sells things. They usually don't have a store you can go to in person.

**Price:** The amount it costs to buy something.

**Save:** To put money away so you can use it in the future.

## Elements of a Story

**Elements:** The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include characters, setting, and plot.

**Characters:** The people or animals in the story.

**Conflict:** The problem in the story that needs to be solved or fixed.

**Plot:** What happens in the story.

**Setting:** Where and when the story takes place.

**Theme:** The story's main idea.