

RAMÓN GOES SHOPPING

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Every Saturday morning Ramon gets up feeling very happy. His family goes shopping to the supermarket on Saturdays; he loves accompanying them and helping to put the food for all the week in the shopping trolley.

It is Saturday today. Mummy wakes Ramón up, as usual, kissing him on the cheek and dressing him. In the kitchen, Daddy is noting down the things we need to buy in the shopping list. That way, he does not forget anything.

- We must buy milk, potatoes, lettuce, washing powder

He goes over the shopping list out loud while he is writing and, from time to time, Mummy reminds him of some product, then Daddy quickly notes it down.

- Don't forget the oil, she says, for example.
- Don't forget the yogurts. Don't forget the fish...

Ramón enjoys all the bustle that goes on at the table while the three are having breakfast.

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Ramón has a big bowl of drinking chocolate and a big handful of biscuits for breakfast. He eats so many cookies that, when he is going to take out one more from the box, he realizes that he has practically finished them all. Then, with great satisfaction, he says to Daddy:

- Don't forget to buy biscuits!

Everybody laughs and Daddy notes down a new product on the list.

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Ramón, his Daddy and his Mummy form a great team. They speak and they laugh. Ramón knows that people who speak and laugh together can work together too and, as they have just done, can make a list of the products to buy,

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After having a shower, brushing their teeth and putting on clean clothes, the three of them get into the car. It is a short trip to the supermarket, but Ramón likes looking out the window to see the landscape changing in front of his eyes. You seem to think trees are running and mountains look quite small in the distance.

Usually, when they are halfway there, Mummy asks Daddy for the buying list.

- You didn't leave it at home, did you?

But almost always, Daddy remembers to bring the shopping list and to put it in his shirt pocket.

- I hope we haven't forgotten to note down anything, - Daddy answers.

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Those words tell us that we are now near the supermarket, and so Ramón gets ready for his weekly adventure.

First of all, when they get out of the car, they go to look for a shopping trolley where they will place all the products. Ramón is in charge of inserting a fifty cents coin in the trolley slot, and then they will be able to use it. Even more importantly, if he behaves himself Ramón will put this coin in his piggy-bank once they return home.

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The three come into the supermarket and, bit by bit, they take all the products they need. Potatoes, milk, legumes, vegetables, sugar, fruit... They are a finely trained and coordinated team. They look like secret agents on a very important and special operation.

- Ramón, look for a carton of juice, - Daddy says.

And Ramón does his duty, while his father tries to find the lettuce shelf.

Meanwhile, Mummy is in the fruit section. This way, in a few minutes, the trolley is full and one by one, once they find each product noted down on the shopping list, they cross them out.

- Everything? Not everything! The biscuits! – Ramón remembers.

And, quickly, he goes to the breakfast section.

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Once he is next to the biscuit shelves, Ramón looks for his favourite brand of biscuits – he like ones that are toasted and very crunchy. But, just when he is taking the box, he comes across a new brand of breakfast biscuits. The box is so beautiful, and there is a “wonderful toy dinosaur” inside.

- This is fantastic!-, Ramón thinks. – Apart from having breakfast, I will be able to play with the dinosaur!

So, without a second's thought, he takes that packet of biscuits and puts it in the trolley.

Mummy informed Ramón that he had made a mistake, but Ramón told her that the new ones were much more delicious.

- Are you sure? - Mummy asks him.

- Sure! – Ramón answers, thinking about the funny toy dinosaur.

The new biscuits are finally in the shopping basket and Ramón smiles really satisfied.

- Good! – he thinks, - I am going to have a great dinosaur.

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On the way home, in the car, Ramón is very happy, he feels like opening the box of biscuits as soon as he gets home. He is not hungry, but he is looking forward to opening the packet to find the gift.

No sooner said that done. Once he is home, the first thing he does is open his great box of biscuits and looks for his dinosaur. But, when he finds it, you can't imagine how disappointed he was. The great toy printed in the box was, in fact, a chunk of painted cardboard in the shape of a dinosaur. What a con!

Daddy and Mummy tell him not to worry, but Ramón feels ripped off. The picture on the carton was so nice and the toy inside was so horrible!

Why aren't there transparent cartons so we can see from the outside what there is inside?

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On Sunday morning, Ramón hardly remembers the subject of the dinosaur. He sits at the table in the kitchen and opens his new box of biscuits to have a big handful of them, as usual. But, when he is eating the first one he discovers that it tastes nasty.

- I don't like the taste of these biscuits, - Ramón says.
- But yesterday you said they were more delicious than the others! – Daddy replied.

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- You didn't go and choose them because of the gift inside, did you? – Mummy asked him.

In fact, they both were right. He took the biscuits for no other reason than the gift. Those biscuits are neither as crunchy, nor as toasted as the others and, on top of that, he did not like the flavour at all.

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Today is Saturday again, Mummy wakes Ramón up, as usual, kissing him on the cheek and dressing him. In the kitchen, Daddy is noting down the things we need to purchase in the shopping list. That way, he does not forget anything. Once more they are going to the supermarket, but today it will be different. While Ramón is having breakfast, he tells his father:

- Don't forget to write the biscuits on the list! But, this time, I will take the tasty ones, the ones I am used to.

Ramón has learnt his lesson. His father and his mother are quite glad. The three will go shopping and they will observe the labels carefully before buying.