

Buying a New Car

By Susan LaBella



“Our car is falling apart,” Aaron Roberts heard his dad say. “We need a new car.”

“I know,” Aaron’s mom agreed. “Do we have enough money to pay for one?”

“I am not sure,” said Mr. Roberts. “I will stop at the bank tomorrow to see what we can do.”

“Dad, why are you going to the bank?” Aaron asked.

“Well,” Mr. Roberts said, “we need a new car, but it costs a lot. Our family has to pay for food, clothing, and our home. That makes it hard to save enough for a new car.” “If we do not have enough money, what can we do?” Aaron wondered.

“Banks sometimes give people loans to help them buy expensive things such as a car or a house. Then you pay the bank back a little at a time.”

“Would the loan help us get a good car?” Aaron asked.

“Yes,” said his dad. “But we will have to repay the loan by sending the bank extra money every month. There will be fewer dollars for other things.”

Aaron thought about what his dad said. “Dad, I will help. I will be careful about spending my allowance.”

Mr. Roberts smiled and said, “That’s my boy!”

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What does the Roberts family need to buy?

- A) a new house
- B) new clothes
- C) a new car

2. Mr. Roberts lists things that the family needs to pay for, aside from the car. What are these three things?

- A) food, clothing, and their home
- B) clothing, toys, and their TV
- C) food, water, and toys

3. Read these sentences from the text.

“Well,’ Mr. Roberts said, ‘we need a new car, but it costs a lot. Our family has to pay for food, clothing, and our home. That makes it hard to save enough for a new car.’”

What conclusion can you draw based on this evidence?

- A) It costs a lot to pay for food, clothing, and a home.
- B) Food, clothing, and a home are less important than new cars.
- C) A new car costs more than a new home.

4. Based on the information in this story, what do banks help people with?

- A) keeping track of money
- B) choosing new cars
- C) finding new houses

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) A family goes to a car salesperson to buy a new car.
- B) A family decides the kind of new car they want.
- C) A family discusses how they can pay for a new car.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Banks sometimes give people loans to help them buy expensive things such as a car or a house. Then you pay the bank back a little at a time."

Based on these sentences, what does the word "loan" mean?

- A) money that people can borrow
- B) money that people can keep without paying back
- C) an expensive thing like a car or house

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"But we will have to repay the loan by sending the bank extra money every month. There will be fewer dollars for other things."

How can these sentences best be combined?

- A) But we will have to repay the loan by sending the bank extra money every month, but there will be fewer dollars for other things.
- B) But we will have to repay the loan by sending the bank extra money every month, so there will be fewer dollars for other things.
- C) But we will have to repay the loan by sending the bank extra money every month, because there will be fewer dollars for other things.

8. Mr. Roberts is not sure whether or not he has enough money saved to pay for a car. Why is it hard to save enough money for a new car?

9. If the Roberts family got a loan from the bank, they would have to repay it by sending the bank extra money every month. How would this affect the way the Roberts family spends money on other things?

10. The article mentions two ways Mr. Roberts and his family might pay for a new car. They might pay using money they've saved up in the past, or they might get a loan from the bank. Which is the better way for them to pay for a car? Support your answer using evidence from the text.
