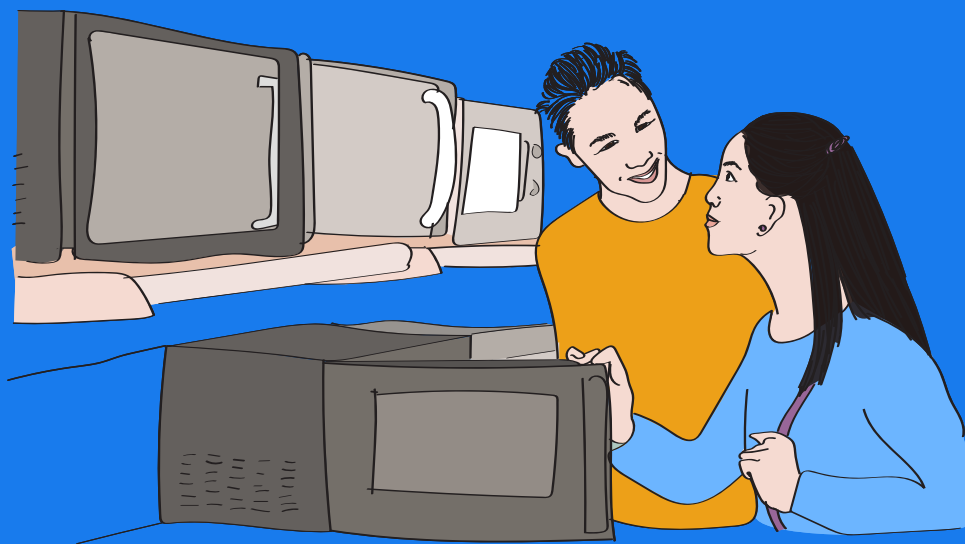




Chen and Lin Buy a Microwave



Written and Illustrated by Lauren Piovesan

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Chen and Lin Buy a Microwave Level 3

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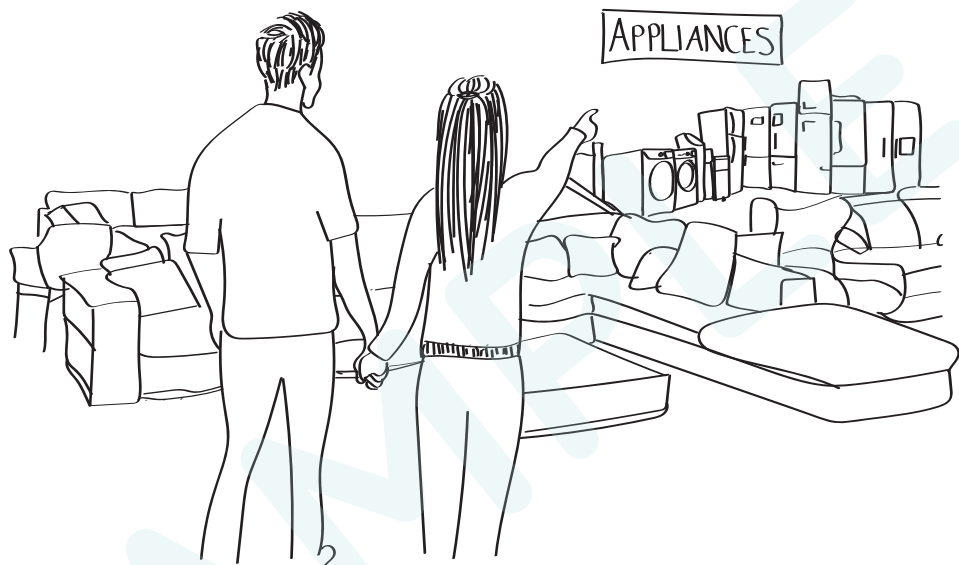
Editor: Analia Solis

This story has been checked by members of the Chinese community for cultural appropriateness.

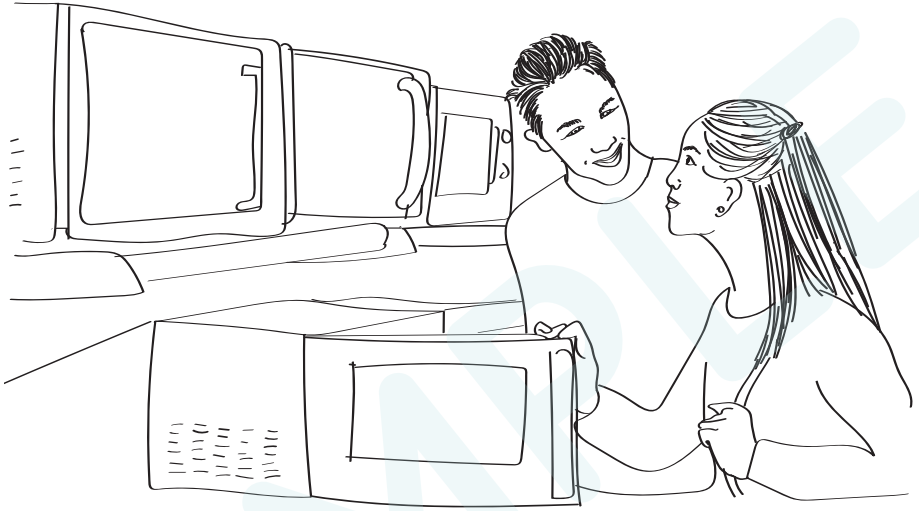
Thank you to the above and to the many people who have inspired and supported these stories; in particular to the wonderful students and school staff that I have had the privilege of working with.

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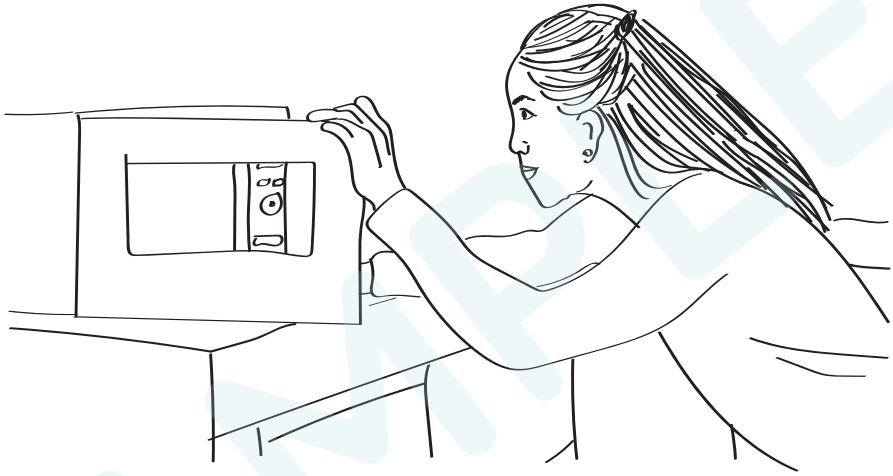


Last week, Chen and his girlfriend Lin went to the home appliances store. They were moving into a new house and Lin really wanted to buy a microwave. Their microwave had broken last month so it had been hard to heat up food quickly.

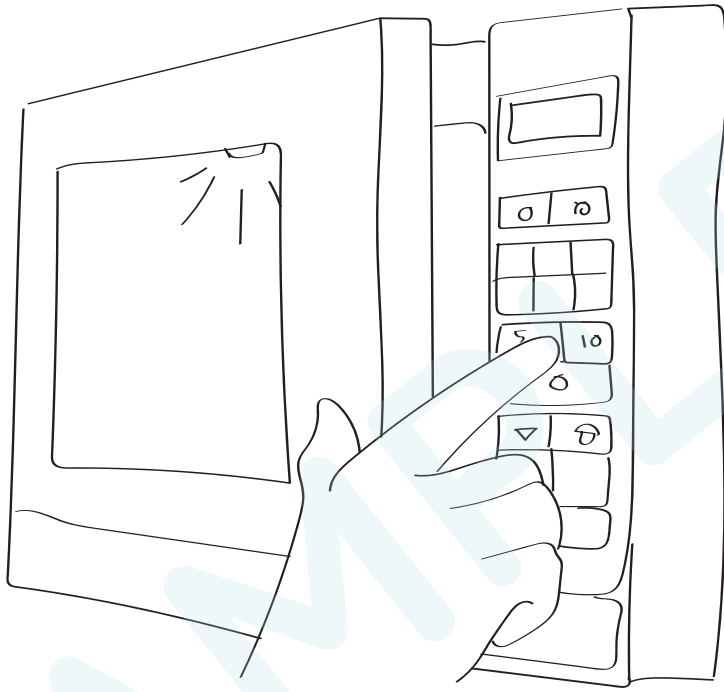


At the store, there were so many microwaves to choose from. It was overwhelming!

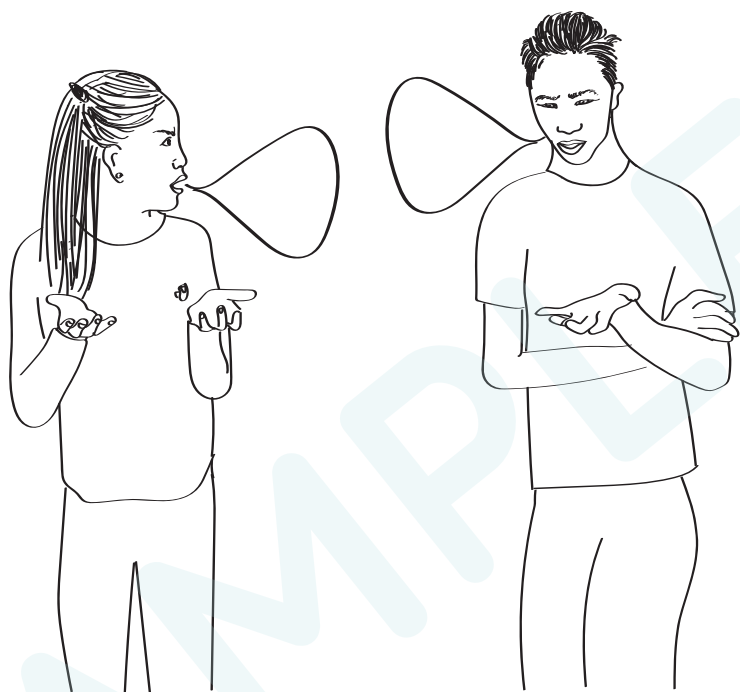
“How do we know which one is good?” thought Lin. They looked carefully and found a microwave for a good price.



When the couple came home, they took their new microwave out of the box. Lin took off the plastic covering and untied the chord. She plugged it into the socket and the lights turned on. Lin was excited to use it!



Chen and Lin decided to warm up last night's dinner. They put their food in and pressed the button, but the microwave didn't start. Lin checked the power point to make sure it was working, while Chen pressed the button again.

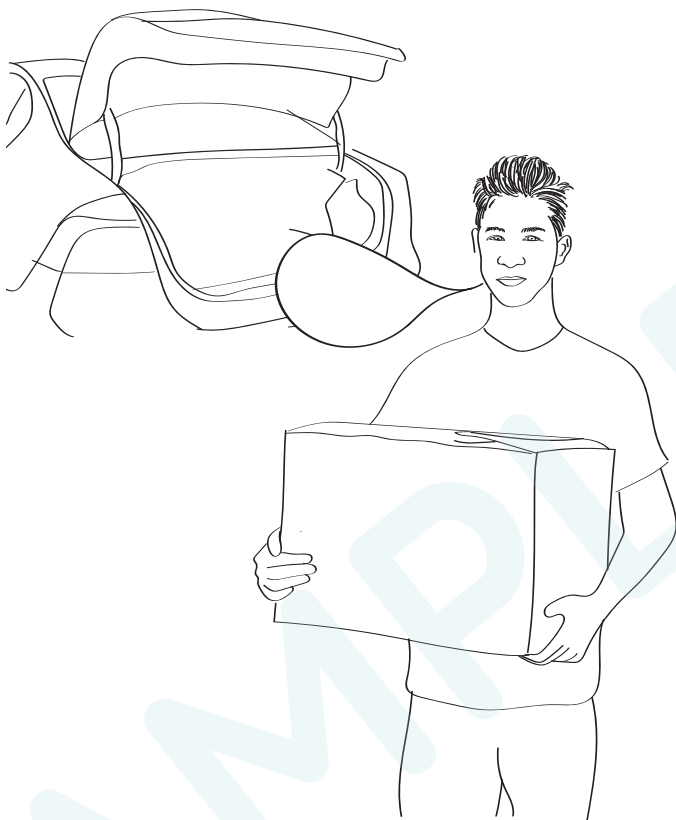


The microwave still didn't turn on! Chen pressed all the buttons, but nothing worked.

Finally, he gave up.

"This microwave doesn't work!" sighed Chen.

"Yeah, it's faulty!" agreed Lin.



Chen decided to return it to the store.

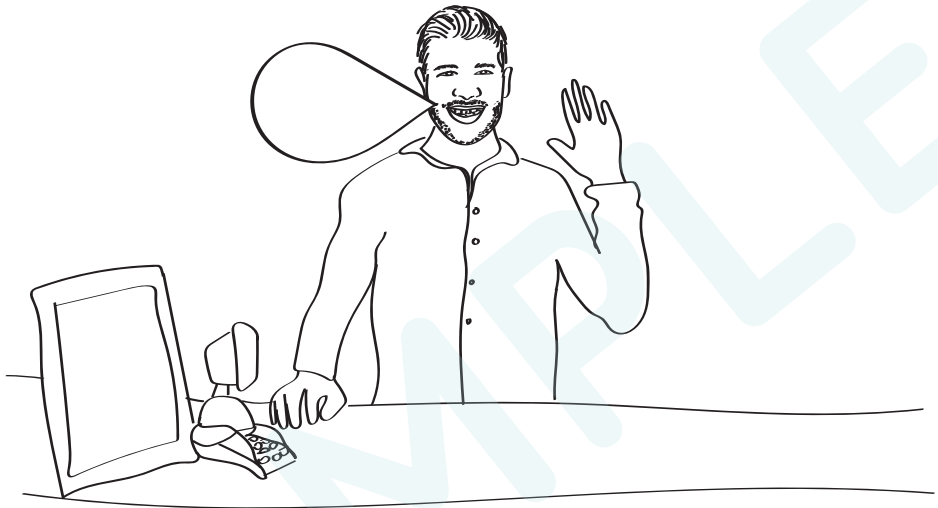
He put the microwave carefully back in the box and wrapped it in the plastic so that it looked brand new. He found the receipt, grabbed his keys and got back in the car.



When Chen arrived at the home appliances store, there was a long line. The store was having a big sale and there were people everywhere!

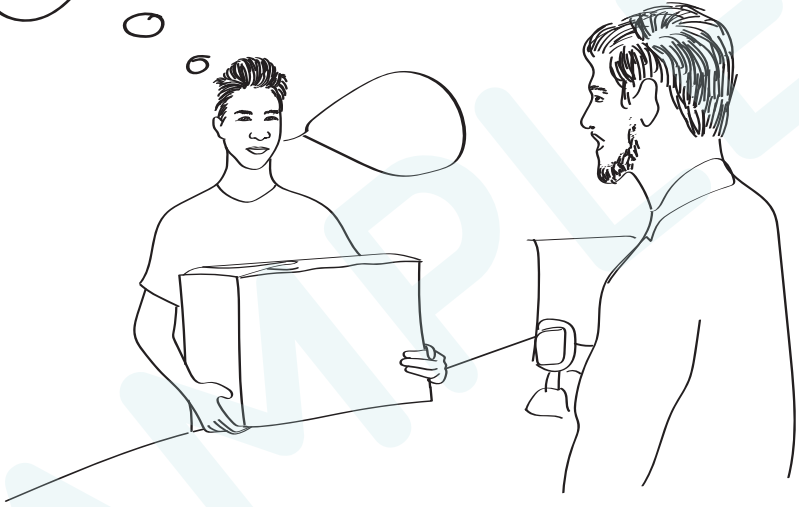
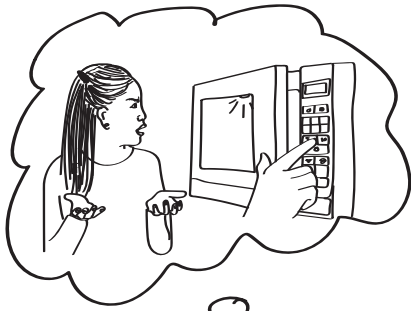
Chen waited in the line until he was called.

“This is taking forever!” he thought.



“Next please,” called the young cashier loudly. Chen looked up and saw the third cashier raise his hand.

“Finally!” he thought to himself as he walked up to the desk.



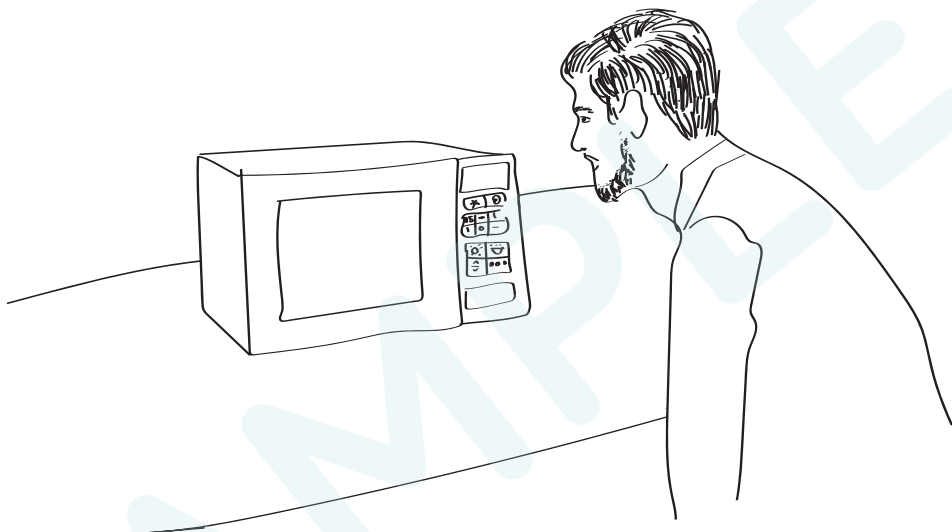
“How can I help you?” asked the cashier in a friendly voice.

“Hi, I bought this microwave today. I took it out of the box carefully and plugged it in but it doesn’t work at all!” explained Chen.

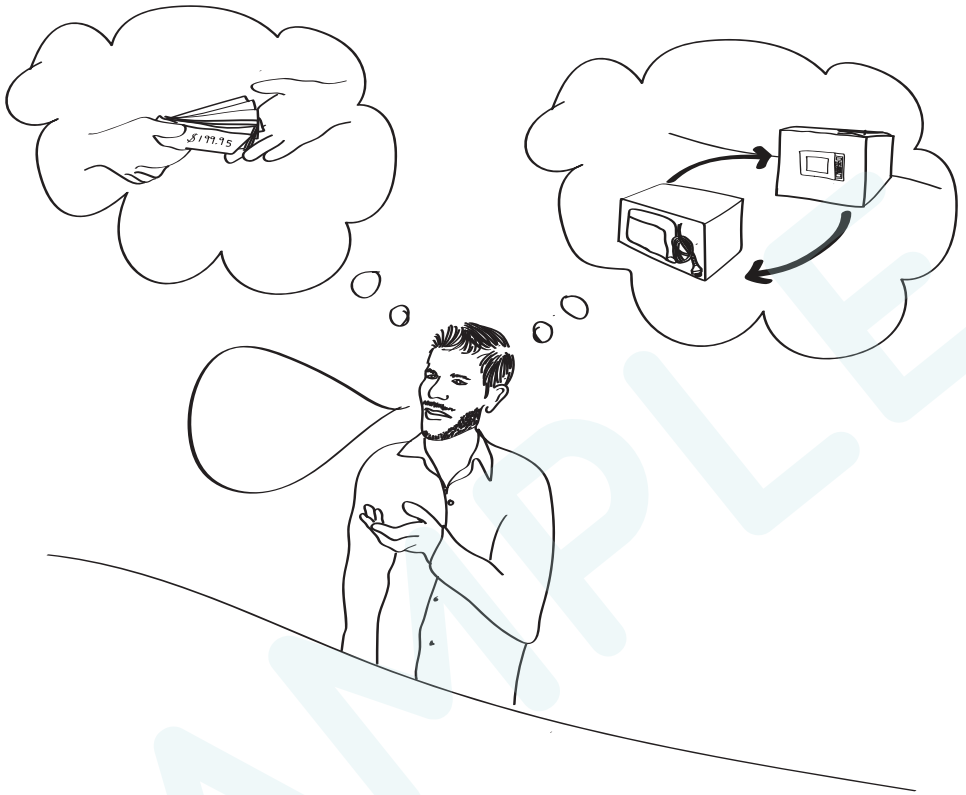


“Okay, what happened after you turned the microwave on?” asked the cashier.

“I pressed the button to start it, but it didn’t turn on. I checked the power point and that was fine. None of the buttons worked,” replied Chen.



The cashier got the microwave out of the box. He inspected it carefully. He was looking to see if the microwave was damaged when Chen took it home. It still looked new and it was in good condition.

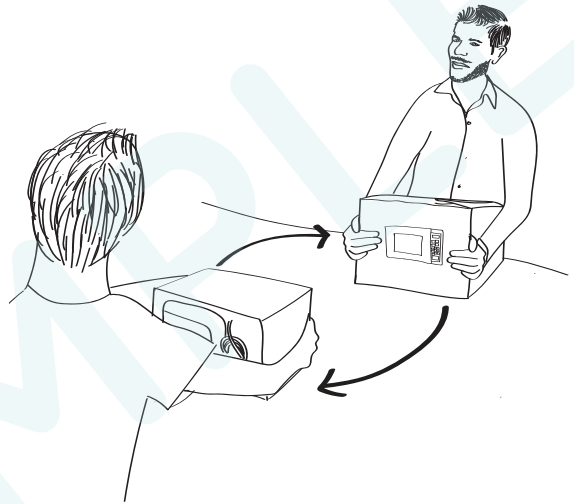
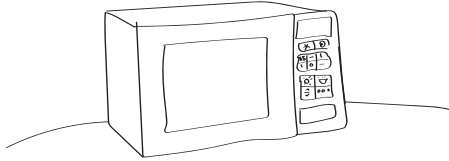
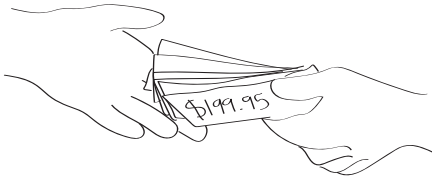


“Do you have the receipt?” asked the cashier. Chen handed him the receipt. The cashier checked the receipt and asked, “Would you like a refund or an exchange?”



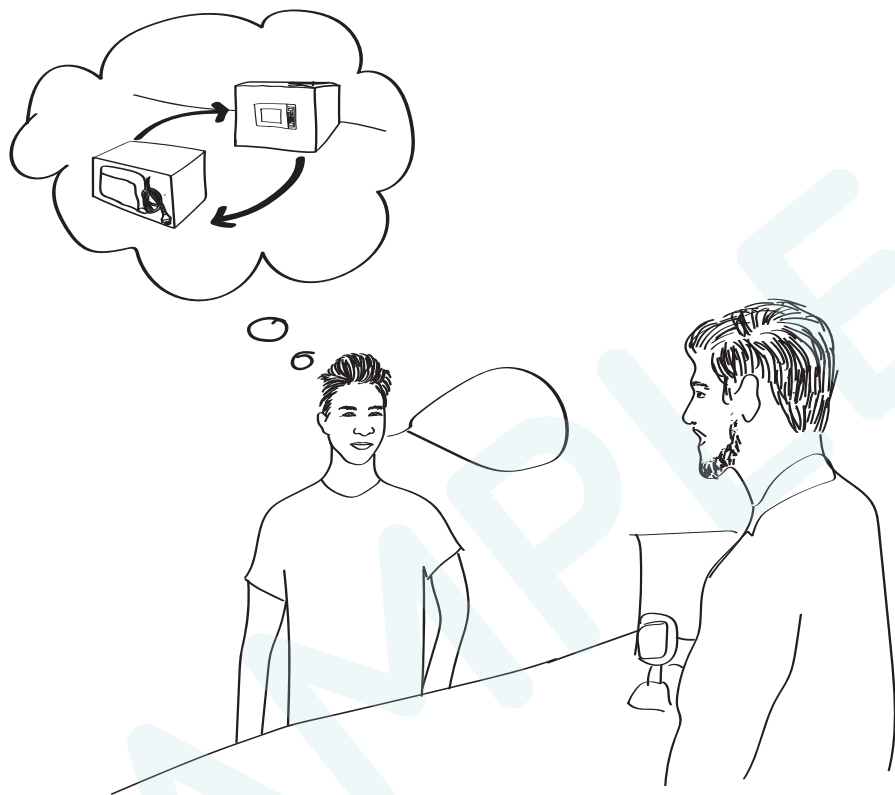
Chen was confused as he had never heard these words before.

“Refund? Exchange? What do they mean?” he thought. He just wanted a new microwave that worked!



“What is the difference?” asked Chen.

“A refund means you get your money back. An exchange means you can buy something else at this store for the same amount of money,” explained the cashier calmly.



Chen wasn't sure which one he wanted. He didn't want to buy from this store again but he really needed a microwave.

"I want a new microwave so let's do an exchange please," he decided.



The cashier typed on his computer and printed out a small, plastic card with \$199.95 on it.

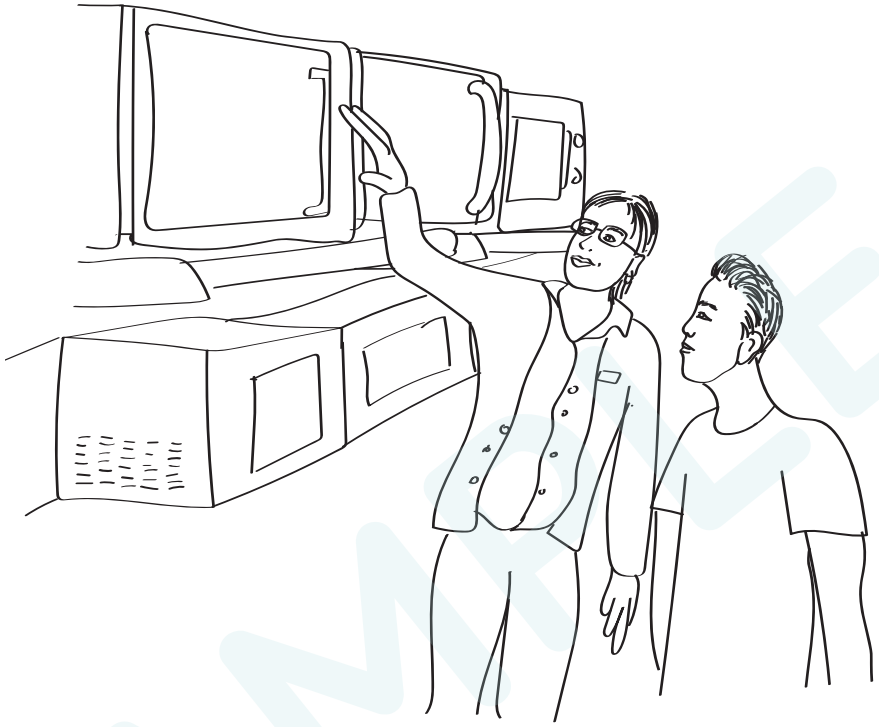
“This is your store credit. You can buy your new microwave or anything else in the store that equals \$199.95,” explained the cashier.



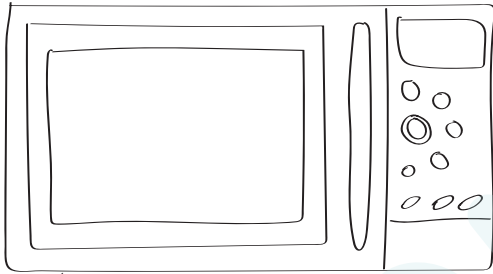
Chen took the store credit and headed back to look at the microwaves.

“This time, I’m going to get some help and make sure I get a good quality one!” thought Chen.

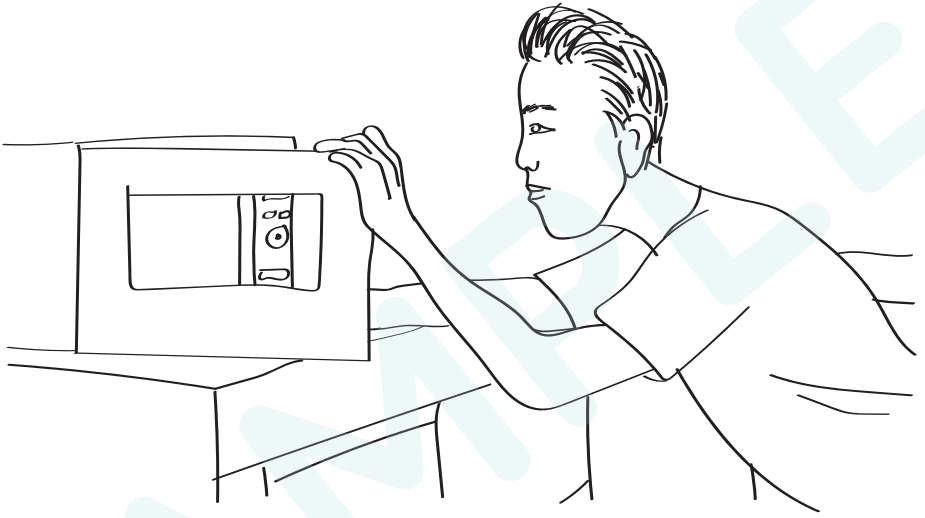
He found a sales assistant nearby.



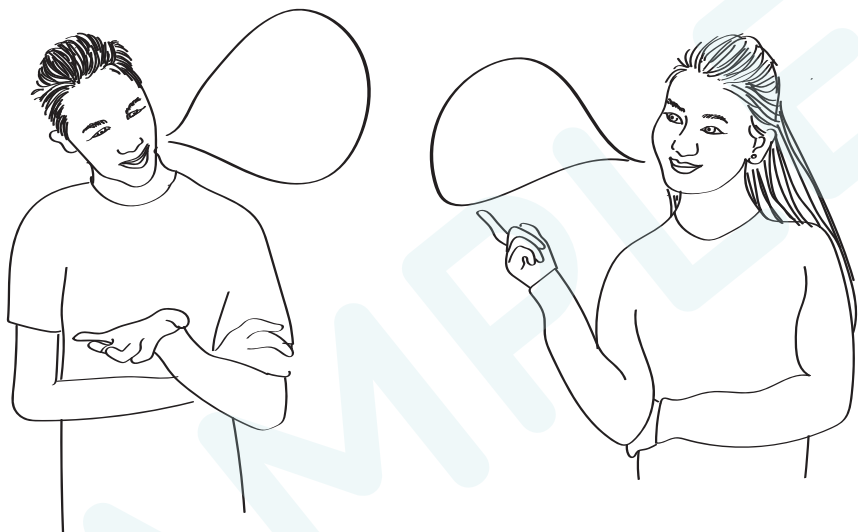
“Excuse me, could you please help me find a new microwave for \$199.95?” he asked. The sales assistant was helpful and gave Chen information about the pros and cons of each microwave. She recommended one that was a popular brand.



He looked at the price and luckily, it was on sale! It was down from \$249.95 to \$199.95. It sounded great! Chen bought the microwave and left the store feeling hopeful.



When Chen got home, he unboxed the microwave and eagerly pressed all the buttons. To his surprise, the new microwave worked perfectly. There were no problems at all. “Good news!” he said happily.



Chen was glad that this microwave worked, but he felt worn out.

“Maybe next time we should ask for help when we want to buy an expensive item!” he said to Lin.

“I agree!” she replied.

Ana Sees the Doctor



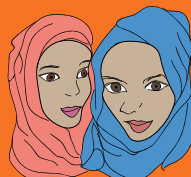
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Chen and Lin Buy a Microwave

Chen and Lin go to the home appliances store to buy a new microwave. Once they take it home, there is a big problem.

Will they be able to figure it out?



Pre-Level 1

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4