



Leo and the Wallet Woes

Amir Khan



Leo had a friend named Max, who always seemed to have the fanciest toys and the brightest new shoes. Max loved to show off his latest treasures, sparkling with an air of endless possibility and fun.



Max often appeared with brand-new gadgets, like a super-speedy remote-control car or a shiny, colorful skateboard. He'd zoom around, making sure everyone saw his cool new things, always looking like he had a secret stash of coins.



One sunny afternoon, Leo needed a small loan for a yummy ice cream cone. He politely asked Max, who suddenly looked very surprised! Leo just needed a tiny bit to make his day perfect.



Max patted his pockets dramatically, then threw his hands up, exclaiming, 'Oh no! My wallet! I must have left it at home again!' His face was full of exaggerated dismay, but Leo couldn't help but notice a slight twinkle in his eye.



But when it was time for a party, Max was the first to call Leo, his voice practically bubbling with excitement. 'Leo! There's a big party tonight! You HAVE to come!' he'd shout, expecting Leo to be there for all the fun.



Max also had a knack for asking for little favors, like needing Leo to recharge his video game console or insisting that the next big treat should definitely be 'on Leo.' He always had a reason why it wasn't his turn to pay.



Leo often sat alone, scratching his head, a giant question mark floating above him. He wondered, 'Is Max my friend, or is he like a never-ending bill that always needs paying?' It was a puzzling thought.



Then, one evening, while drawing silly faces, Leo had a brilliant 'Aha!' moment. A lightbulb popped above his head, and a mischievous grin spread across his face. He decided it was time for a change!



The very next day, Max bounced over to Leo with a big smile, ready to ask for another favor. His eyes sparkled, clearly planning to get something from Leo again, perhaps a new comic book or a giant cookie.



But Leo just smiled back, his eyes twinkling even more mischievously. 'Oh, sorry Max!' Leo announced cheerfully, 'My account is under maintenance! System update in progress!' Max's jaw dropped, utterly speechless, as Leo winked playfully.