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When people find something valuable and return it to its owner, they are often given a reward. This is because the person not only found what was lost but also spent time to find its owner or take it to the police station.

There was once a young boy who found a woman’s purse in a shopping center. Inside the purse there was some money and the woman’s driver’s license. Her name and address were printed on the license, so the boy knew where she lived. That evening he went to her house and knocked on her door. When she opened it, he said, “I found your purse,” and handed it to her.

“Thank you very much,” she said. She opened her purse and took out all the money. She wanted to give the boy a small reward but there were only $20 bills in the purse and she thought that $20 was too much to give the boy. “I’m so sorry,” she said, “but I don’t have any small change to give you.”

The boy said, “That’s all right,” and went away.

A few days later he found another woman’s purse. It also had her driver’s license in it, so he knew where she lived. He went to her house and said, “I found your purse,” and handed it to her.

“Thank you very much,” she said. She opened her purse and took out her money.

“That’s strange,” she said. “Before I lost my purse I had a $100 bill and a $20 bill in it. Now I have a $100 bill, a $10 bill and two $5 bills.”

“Yes,” the boy said, and smiled.
Vocabulary Review

Match each word with its meaning.

1. valuable
   a. small money (bills or coins)
2. change
   b. something for doing a good thing
3. reward
   c. worth a lot

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. Why did the boy smile at the end of the story?
   a. He changed the bills in her purse.  b. He kept some of the money.  
   d. He wanted to look honest.  d. He thought the woman was funny.
2. How did the boy know the owner of the purse?
   a. He saw her drop the purse.  b. Someone told him the name of the woman.  
   c. He took the purse from her.  d. Something in the purse had her name on it.
3. After the boy returned the purse to the first woman, he felt _____.
   a. proud  b. excited  
   c. disappointed  d. confused
4. The boy “handed the purse to” the woman? This means he _____ it to her.
   a. dropped  b. gave  
   c. threw  d. took

Summary

Fill in each blank with the correct word.

returned  reward  changed  another  owner

A boy found a purse and _____ it to the owner. The owner said she wanted to give him a _____, but she did not have any small bills. The boy found _____ purse. It only had large bills in it. He _____ the $20 bill into smaller bills, so the _____ could give him a reward.