# The What If Table: He Had 10 Days and a Broken Machine. Could He Save the Job?

Level: A2-B1 / B1

Estimated time: 10-15 minutes

Welcome to your practice sheet for this episode. Take 10 to 15 minutes to listen again to key moments, check your understanding, and practice speaking English using ideas from the story.

## Activity 1: Listen and Check the Facts

Before you listen: Read questions 1, 2, and 3. Try to remember what happened in the story first. Then listen to each part from the indicated timestamp to check and write your answer.

1. Listen from 01:07. How much money did Clara Ruiz from the bakery offer Evan for two pantries, and how much deposit did she pay in cash?

Your answer:

2. Listen from 02:11. With only ten days left before the deadline, what mechanical problem happened to Evan's digital machine?

Your answer:

3. Listen from 04:15. What emergency job did the flooded hardware store need, and how many days did Evan have to build it?

Your answer:

## Activity 2: Listen for the Exact Words

Before you listen: Read the sentences below. Listen from the timestamp and fill in each blank with the exact word or phrase that Dennis uses.

4. Listen from 04:15.

Evan stepped forward and took the job for eight hundred and fifty dollars, relying only on simple ( ..... ) and a wooden guide.

Your answer:

5. Listen from 05:51.

Six months later, Evan arrives at six in the morning, completely ( ..... ) with two thousand five hundred and fifty dollars in savings.

Your answer:

## Activity 3: Understand Everyday Vocabulary

Dennis uses an everyday expression to describe Evan's difficult financial situation at the start of the story.

6. Listen from 01:07.

Dennis says: He scraped by fixing small chairs for sixty dollars, with only one hundred and twenty dollars in his savings.

In this context, what does scraped by mean?

a) He earned plenty of money and lived comfortably.

b) He survived with only the bare minimum money.

c) He bought expensive materials for his shop.

Your answer:

## Activity 4: Speak and Transfer to Your Life

In the episode, Dennis shares an important insight about doing your work instead of waiting for perfect conditions.

7. Pronunciation and Repetition

Listen from 06:27. Dennis says:

True craftsmanship does not wait for a perfect machine or ideal conditions.

Listen to Dennis say this sentence. Then repeat it out loud two times after him. You can also listen again and speak along with him at the same time.

8. Personal Transfer: Speak About Your Own Goals

Think about an important activity or project in your life (for example: learning English, exercising, writing, or cooking). Use the pattern from Dennis to create your own rule.

Sentence starter:

True progress does not wait for ( ..... ). It begins when ( ..... ).

Checklist for your response:

• Did you name a real activity or personal goal?

• Did you use the structure does not wait for?

• Did you state a simple action you can take right now?

• Did you say your complete sentence out loud?

Your written sentence:

# Answer key

1. She offered 3,400 dollars for two pantries, with an 800-dollar cash deposit. (Accept: $3,400 for two pantries and $800 in cash.)

2. The drive belt snapped. (Accept: the drive belt broke, leaving him stranded with plywood.)

3. An emergency checkout counter in four days.

4. hand planes

5. debt-free

6. b (He survived with only the bare minimum money. To scrape by means to manage to live with very little money.)

7. Oral practice. Check that you repeated the sentence out loud two times clearly.

8. Possible answer: True progress does not wait for perfect free time. It begins when I practice speaking English for ten minutes today.

Checklist check: The sentence names a clear goal (progress in English), uses does not wait for, mentions a simple immediate action, and is practiced out loud.