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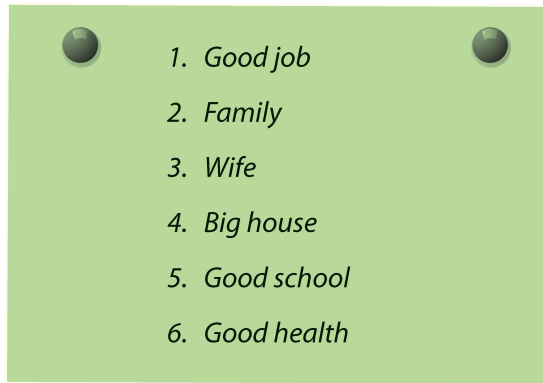
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## Making a List

Today was a beautiful day for Tony Lou. As he walked down the street, Tony thought about his list of the most important things in his life. People had laughed at him for years because of his life-list, but it made Tony feel good. It was his list, and he made it, so he knew what he wanted to do.

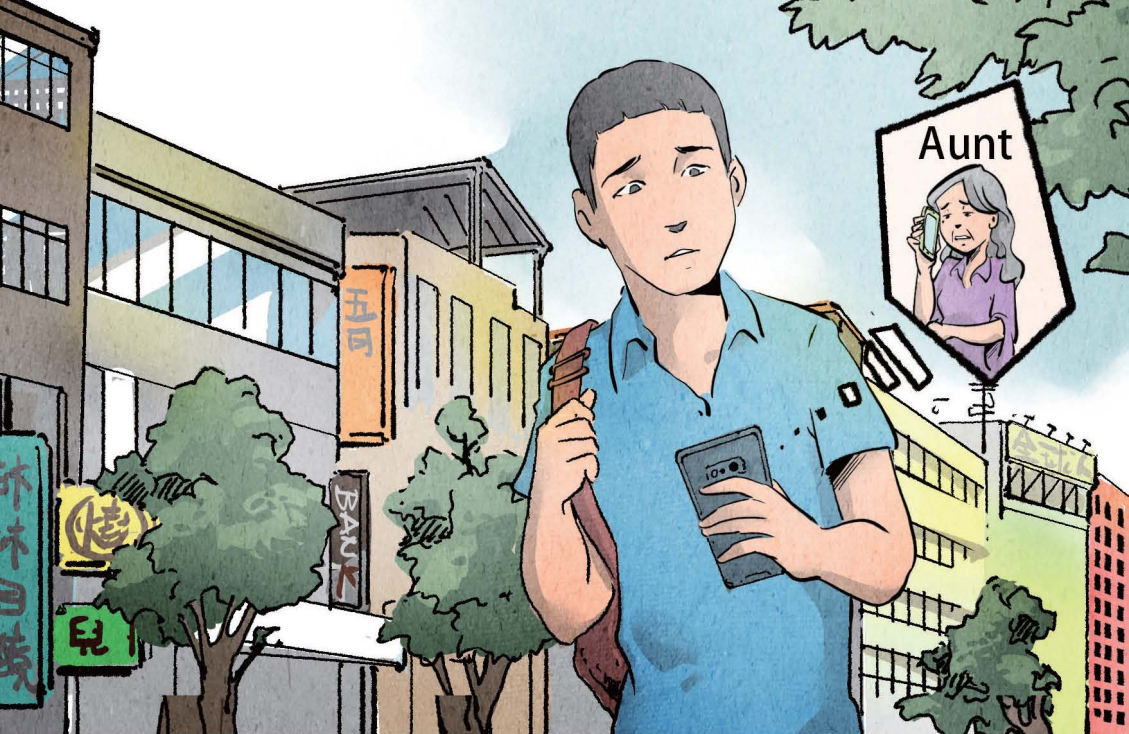


Tony did not like surprises and always made five-year plans for his life. He would get a good job, buy a house, marry his girlfriend, and have a child, all in the next five years.

He felt something shake, so he looked down, and it was his phone. His aunt was calling. *That's strange*, he thought. *I haven't heard from her in a long time*. As soon as he answered the phone, he heard crying.

"Tony, Tony, Tony," his aunt cried, "please help me."

"What's wrong?" Tony asked.



"Your uncle, he's very, very sick. We have to go to the hospital."

Tony said, "Oh no, I'm so sorry to hear that. What can I do to help?"

His aunt replied, "We need you to come and watch our **bed and breakfast** for a few days."

Tony stopped walking. "What do you mean watch your **B&B**?" he asked.

"You know, take money, **check** people **in** and **out**. Easy things. Nothing hard. We have a **housekeeper**. All you have to do is sit there and get the money and answer any questions about the island," she told him.

His aunt and uncle ran a B&B called the Dew Drop **Inn** on a beautiful island called Xiao Liuqiu. He hadn't been there in years, but he had loved going there when he had been a kid.

Tony asked, "But why me?" He didn't like surprises. Going to help his aunt was going to make him change his plans.

"You are family, and you are not in school anymore, and you don't have a job right now," his aunt said. "Please, Tony, I have to go. They're taking your uncle to the hospital. It's very bad. Please come tomorrow."

Tony said, "Of course, Aunt, of course. I will do whatever I can to help you. You're my family, and I love you." He had to do it, as family was number two on his list.

His aunt said, "You're such a good boy, Tony. You're so nice and helpful. Thank you."

As soon as they hung up, Tony realized his girlfriend, Angela, would be upset. She was an influencer and he had promised to take her to the mountains to take some pictures for her page. He kept walking over to Angela's house and thinking of how he was going to tell her.

His phone started to ring again, and it was his mom.

"Oh, Tony," his mom said. "Have you heard about Uncle Lou?"

Tony said, "Of course I've heard. I'm going to go down and help them."

His mother said, "Oh, thank you, Tony, no one else in the family lives nearby, and they don't have kids, so this is wonderful of you."

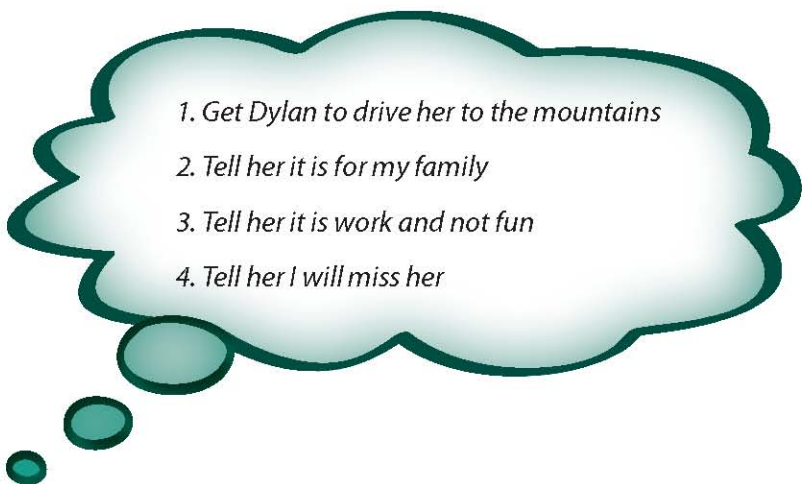
Tony said, "Of course, it's not a problem. I will take the train down and then catch the boat and get there in the morning around 10:00 a.m.," he said and started to make a list of what he would have to do to get there.

His mom asked, "You're a good boy, but what about Angela?"



Tony said, "I was just thinking the same thing. Angela is not going to be happy, but what can she say? My sick uncle is a family problem, and family is the second most important thing in my life. Helping my family is very important. It'll be OK."

While walking to Angela's house, he made a list of the things he had to say and do.



Then he called his friend Dylan to ask a favor.

"Hey Dylan, are you busy?" Tony asked.

Dylan replied, "I am about to **go play ball** at the school. What do you need?"

"I have to go to Xiao Liuqiu this weekend to take care of my aunt and uncle's B&B while my uncle is in the hospital."



"You want me to go with you? Awesome! But, I need time to get ready to go. I'd love to see the sun."

"No, no, no. Sorry, Dylan. I need you to do something else for me."

"Aww man, what is it?" Dylan asked.

"Angela has to take pictures in Xindian, and I was hoping you could drive her and help her take the pictures."

Dylan was quiet for a few seconds before saying, "I guess so, but she doesn't like me. She only likes talking about herself and other people and what they wear, and she won't introduce me to any beautiful girls to date."

"No! She likes you. She thinks you're so funny and cute, and Angela told me that she had not met any girl good for you," said Tony. "Thank you for helping me. You're the best! I am almost at her house, and I have to go. I wish you well in your game."

When he got to Angela's house, she greeted him and asked him in. They sat down on her sofa, and she said, "What is wrong, Tony? You look very upset."

He told her, "Angela, my uncle's very sick. They're flying him to a hospital. I have to go down to the island for a few days and take care of their business. I will be working. It will not be fun. I have to help people check in and check out, and make sure everything is working. I've asked Dylan to drive you to the mountains tomorrow, and he's agreed."

"Oh, I don't like Dylan. All he does is talk about basketball!" Angela said.

Tony said, "I know he loves his sports, but he will take you wherever you want and help with the pictures."

"But all he cares about is the NBA. He doesn't even listen to me. I tried to tell him about what he should wear, and all he talks about is the latest game or star," Angela said.

"Dylan likes sports. You like fashion. Everyone likes what they like," Tony told her. "Dylan will drive you into the mountains. You can do what you need to do for your work. Then, he'll bring you home. He's going to take very good care of you. He promises."

"Oh, but I wanted to spend time with you," she said, and she held his hands and pulled him close. Then, as he was leaning over to kiss her, Angela's phone started to ring. It was her **manager** calling. "Oh, I'm sorry, Tony, but I have to take this call. It is OK. I understand it's for family, and it's only going to be for two or three days."



Tony said, "I don't know if it's only two or three days, but it shouldn't be too long. And yes, it's for family."

"OK. I guess I'll let you go," Angela said.

"Thank you, Angela. I am so happy for your support in this matter," Tony replied. He was not looking forward to this long trip. It would be hard, but he had to help his family, and Tony was a good guy. *It's only for a few days*, he thought to himself.