

# A Telling Gift

It was Hector's 16th birthday. Hector is one of old Nat Kudan's nephews. Nat was giving his nephew a birthday gift. It was the nature of the gift that brought Hector to Will and Emma.

"I'll repeat the entire conversation for you," Hector promised. It went something like this:

"I've got a birthday gift here for you, Hector. It's 16 dollars in honor of your 16 years of as a nephew."

"Thanks a bunch, Uncle Nat!"

"I have the 16 dollars right here in my pocket, in 3 bills."

"Three bills, that's great."

"One of them is not a 10-dollar bill, though, and there aren't any coins or partial bills or any tricks like that."

*Huh?* Hector thought. "How can that be, Uncle Nat?" Hector was a puzzled nephew, which is what he usually was when he dealt with Nat.

After a moment or two of puzzlement, Will and Emma called me. Naturally. They informed me of the conundrum that was before them.

I could have cleared it up for them faster than you could say "pure genius." Instead, I gave them a telling clue. I told them that the answer is in the telling.

It's easy to solve a puzzle when it reminds you of an old gag that you've heard a dozen times before.



How can you make 16 dollars using exactly and only 3 bills, one of which is not a 10-dollar bill?

