The Robot Competition (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Last spring my school organised a big science competition. I worked on my project for six weeks with my friend Nadia. We built a small robot that could follow a black line on the floor. On the first day of testing, the robot only turned in circles. I was so annoyed that I wanted to throw it out of the window. Nadia stayed calm and checked every wire again.

The evening before the competition, our robot stopped working completely. Nadia asked me if I had changed anything in the program. I said no, but that was not true. I had changed two lines in the code that afternoon. I felt very guilty about my lie, and I could not sleep well. At two o'clock in the morning I sent her a long message and told her everything.

Nadia was not angry with me. She only wrote, "Thank you for telling me." I was grateful for her kind answer, because I really deserved a hard word. We met at seven in the morning at school and fixed the program together. My hands were cold and my voice was shaking. The hall was full of parents, teachers and other students, and the noise was almost frightening for me. Nadia held my arm and told me to breathe slowly.

When our turn came, I put the robot on the floor. For three seconds nothing happened, and I was ready for an embarrassing moment in front of everybody. Then the little machine moved forward and followed the line perfectly to the end. The teachers were amazed because no other team had built a robot from old computer parts. One judge asked us many technical questions at the same time, and I got completely confused and gave the wrong number. Nadia laughed and corrected me. I felt embarrassed for a moment, but nobody really cared. We did not win the first prize, and that was a little disappointing after so much work. Still, we got the special prize for creativity. My father was proud of us and took photos of everything. On the way home I told Nadia that I would never lie to her again.

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