Reading.

TEEN TYCOON **by Sarah Marsh**

Have you ever bought something on the Internet that wasn't new? It's becoming a more popular way to buy second-hand things, and you can certainly pick up some bargains. **(1)** _____ That will ensure you don't make a mistake that will cost you money.



Of course, some people get things from the Internet that they don't need to pay for! One person who has got second-hand things online is teenager Steven Ortiz, from the US. **(2)** _____ So how did he do it? With patient and clever use of a website he discovered, which advertises items that people want to exchange for something else. The whole process took him two years.

It all started when Steven was given an old mobile phone by a friend. He traded it for a better phone, which he then exchanged for an MP3 player. **(3)** _____ With the fourteenth exchange, he ended up with a Porsche – a very expensive sports car. Luckily, by then he was old enough to drive it!

The story may sound too good to be true, but in fact, Steven isn't the first person to do something like this. **(4)** _____ He did this in only fourteen moves. Kyle did it by creating a website called 'One red paperclip' and also blogging about his adventures. Followers contacted him with offers of items to exchange, and altogether the process took him a year.

Steven and Kyle have both become celebrities in their home countries since sharing their stories. Kyle has written a book about what he did, and is often asked to give talks at events and conferences. **(5)** _____ He is thinking of buying a car that is less expensive to repair.

Read the text. Complete gaps 1–5 with sentences A–E.

A	In 2005, Kyle MacDonald was in the news when he started with a small red paperclip, and ended up with an entire house.
B	He became the owner of a car worth about $10,000 that he saw online – but he got it without any money!
C	However, if it's something expensive, like a car or a computer, it's a good idea to see it first.
D	Next came several bikes, a laptop and then a series of cars.
E	On the other hand, Steven is planning to sell his Porsche.

Read the text again. True or false?

1	Buying second-hand goods can increase your chances to buy things at lower prices.	true	false
2	Steven managed to buy an expensive car very quickly for a very small amount of money.	true	false
3	Steven trades in good products for ones that are lower in quality and value.	true	false
4	Stephen was the first to come up with the idea of exchanging goods online.	true	false
5	Kyle wants to buy a cheaper car because his Porsche is too expensive to service.	true	false

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