

TRYOUT PROBLEM

Steven, an 85-year-old retiree, is selling his snowblower. To help him, his niece Vivian places the following ad on Kijiji:

"Seeking offers for my grandfather's snowblower. If interested, please call the following number, and leave your offer by voicemail before Friday. If yours is the best offer, we will contact you." (Vivian provides Steven's phone number in the ad)

A half dozen offers come in, and the callers leave voicemails. Instead of leaving a voicemail, Timothy texted, "I'd like to offer \$350 for your snowblower." This phrase is followed by the following: "👉?"

Steven, unfamiliar with emojis, ended up texting back the same emoji. He did this by pressing his finger on the emoji (as he didn't know what it was), which caused the select option to appear. Steven tapped "select," and the emoji was copied. He pressed a second time, and the word "paste" appeared. He tapped that option, and like magic (to him), the emoji appeared. He pressed send, believing this emoji was a modern sign-off.

The next day, Vivian went through the voice messages left on Steven's voicemail and was happy to learn that someone had offered \$500 for the snowblower. She mentions this to Steven, who is equally delighted, and he tells her to make the deal. Vivian makes the deal, and the new buyer picks up the snowblower that very evening.

Timothy sends Steven a follow-up text the next day asking when he can pick up the snowblower. Vivian notices that Steven seems looking confused a text he received. Vivian takes his phone and reads the correspondence. She replies to Timothy that there is no deal and that the snowblower was sold and is already in the possession of its new owner.

Timothy writes that she must be mistaken because he had a deal, which she can see in the thread she is replying to.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRYOUT: Please take a position on whether Timothy has a contract with Steven given that Steven replied "👉" to Timothy's text.