

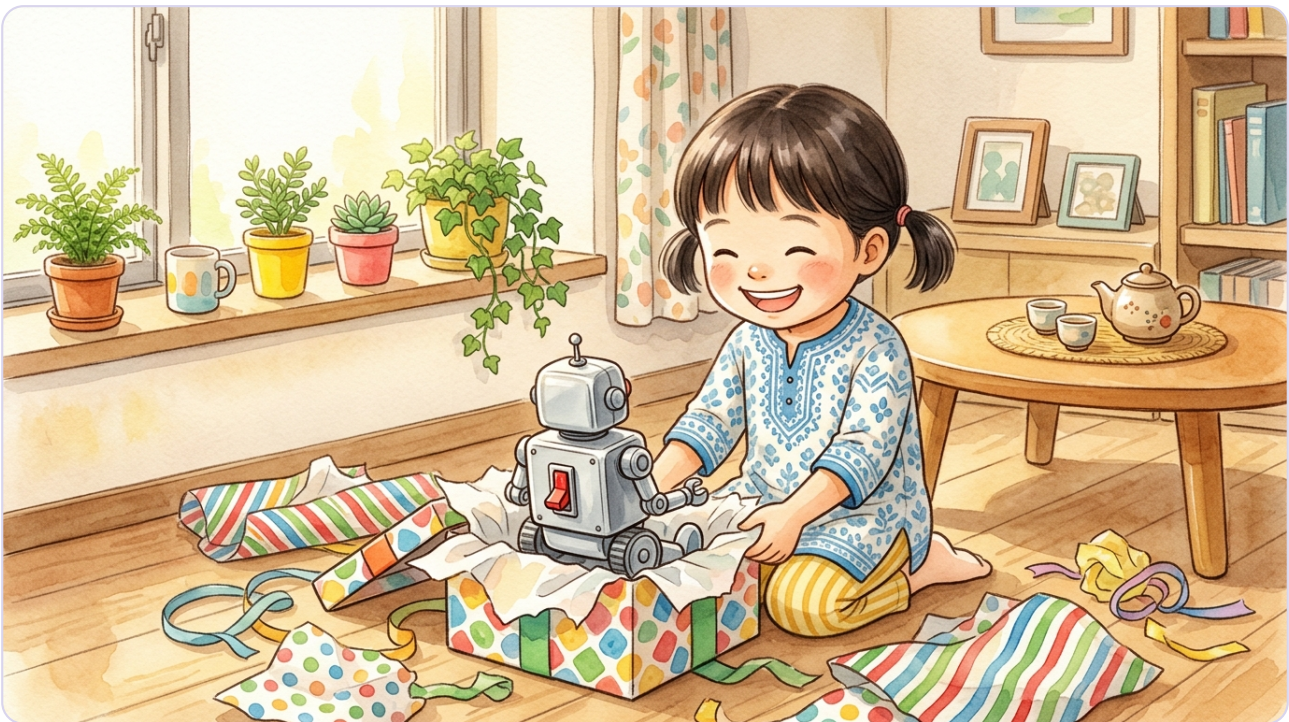
The Robot That Would Not Stop

A birthday robot with one button. The button was the problem.

3 min read

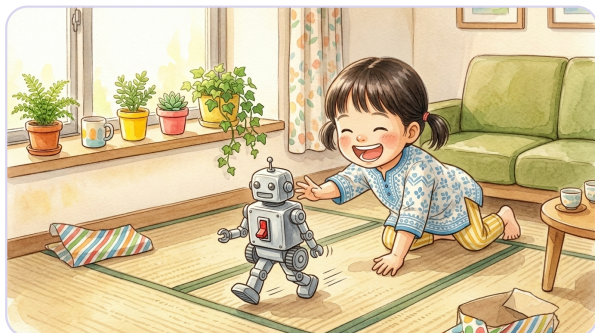
Before you read

- **switch** — a part you press to turn something on or off
- **whirred** — made a soft spinning sound
- **instructions** — words that tell you how to use something
- **reach** — stretch far enough to touch



One switch, and off it goes

- ¹ For my birthday I got a robot. It is small and silver.
- ² It has one red switch on its back.
- ³ I pressed the switch. The robot whirred. Then it walked.
- ⁴ It walked across the table. It walked off the table.



It would not stop

⁵ It did not break. It got up and kept walking.

⁶ I pressed the switch again. The robot did not stop.

⁷ It walked under the sofa. I could hear it: whirr, whirr, whirr.

⁸ I could not reach it. My arm was too short.

⁹ Dad read the box. 'Press and hold,' he said. 'Not just press.'

¹⁰ We moved the sofa. I pressed and held. The robot stopped.

¹¹ Now I read instructions first. Well, sometimes.



Dad reads the box

¹² The robot has walked off the table four more times. I think it likes it.

Part A Choose the best answer

Circle the letter next to the right answer.

1. What colour is the robot?

- A red
- B gold
- C silver
- D green

2. Where did the robot go that the child could not reach?

- A under the sofa
- B up the stairs
- C out the door
- D into a box

3. What sound did the robot make?

- A beep
- B whirr
- C clang
- D buzz

4. What did Dad find out from the box?

- A the robot was broken
- B you must press and hold
- C it needs a new battery
- D it is not a toy

Part B Write your answer

Answer in one or two sentences.

5. Why could the child not stop the robot the first time?

6. How do we know the robot is strong?

Part C Think deeper

There is no single right answer here. Say what you think, and say why.

7. At the end, the child says 'Now I read instructions first. Well, sometimes.' Why do you think they added 'sometimes'? What do you think will happen next time?

8. What is a toy or game you had to work out how to use? How did you work it out?

Answer key

For parents and teachers

Part A

1. **C** — silver | 2. **A** — under the sofa | 3. **B** — whirr | 4. **B** — you must press and hold

Part B

5. Because pressing once was not enough — the switch had to be pressed and held. Accept any answer showing the child understood it was the wrong action, not a broken toy.

6. It walked off the table and did not break; it got up and kept going. Accept either half.

Part C

These answers vary. Mark the reasoning, not the answer.

7. A strong answer notices the child is being honest — they know they should, but they probably will not always. Many will predict the robot gets stuck again, which the last line supports. Accept simpler answers but prompt with: do you think they really will read them every time?

8. Any honest answer with a reason. Look for method: asking someone, trying buttons, watching a video, reading. The skill is describing how they solved it, not just that they did.

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