

Conditions:

you borrow 50 dollars from your mom and 50 from your dad. you buy an item for 97 dollars and receive 3 dollars in change. you give your mother one dollar your father one dollar and keep one for yourself. so you owe both your parents 49 dollars however 49×2 equals 98 plus the dollar you kept equals 99. where did the extra dollar go.

Solution

The trick of this question is in details, how must we count money.

Let's consider such monetary flows like debts and assets.

When we borrowed 50 dollars from mom and 50 dollars from dad, our debts value was "100\$" and our assets was "100\$".

When we bought an item for 97 dollars and took 3 dollars in change, we've got such assets as "3 dollars + item_which_costs_97\$".

When we paid a part of our debts (from our assets) – 1 dollar to mom and 1 to dad, our debts came to value $100 - 2 = 98\$$.

After that in our assets left $1\$ + \text{item_which_costs_97\$} = 98\$$.

So, in the end of this task we have 98\$ debts, which are balanced with 98\$ assets.

Notice: The sum of 99 dollars is a trick, which was received after wrong calculation operation – summing $49\$ + 49\$$ of debts and 1\$ of assets. This made an illusion about "1 mysterious extra dollar". This task trains our attention, logic and understanding about monetary flows.

Answer: There is no extra dollars. Please, read the Solution. Thank you.