One Saturday student talked about a friend who thinks she may have been overcharged for a service she received. She wanted some items moved from one room to another within the same mansion building, so she asked a removals company to do it. This job didn't involve moving many items or over a long distance, of course, so the time it would take was only half a day. The amount she was charged, however, was twice the expected amount. This might sound like greediness, but is probably based on a one-day charge for the company's services. Removals companies probably rarely do half-day removals, so their costs for labour, a vehicle and any materials are charged per day. The opportunity cost of accepting a job for half a day is that they may lose income if another customer called later and asked for a full day's work.

Do you think the removals company should have charged for one day or a half-day? Explain your reasoning.

Charge
This means to give another person or organisation responsibility to pay for something they have ordered. This can be as simple as food we buy in a shop or as complex as a new house we ask a builder to construct. 'Charge' can also be used when the police formally say that a person or organisation is responsible for a crime.

[Resources]
- https://translate.weblio.jp

Write a few sentences using 'buy', 'charge' and 'pay' to describe the same transaction you did recently. For example, I bought some chocolate. The shop charged me 100 yen. I paid 100 yen.

If you don't ask..... - audio

Card number C1 below is from Level 2 pack 1, available at englishbooks.jp, Amazon and Rakuten

Have you ever been overcharged?

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