



Equipment Key Mixup

PROBLEM SOLVING · THREE ENDINGS

Sadie pauses at the equipment room door with a tripod cart beside her, because the key on the office lanyard will not turn. The checkout clipboard says the equipment room key was returned after lunch, and the red lanyard is hanging on the correct hook. On the lanyard, though, is a small brass padlock key that belongs to the rolling ball cage inside the room. Her video group needs the tall microphone stand stored behind the shelves, and another class reserved the camera crate next period. The office assistant can call the last borrower, but that may take longer than checking the labeled tray where loose keys sometimes land.

Choose the ending most likely to work, and explain what happens next.

- ☐ Sadie leaves the wrong key on the lanyard, tells her group to wait, and starts checking every nearby door that might use it.
- ☐ Sadie takes the wrong key back to the office assistant, checks the loose-key tray, and asks for the last borrower to be called if the right key is not there.
- ☐ Sadie asks her group to borrow a microphone stand from another room and plans to mention the key problem after the project recording is finished.

Answer: 2

Think about it: Which consequence matters most if the wrong key stays on the hook after Sadie leaves?

TEACHER NOTE

Best ending: 2. It handles the misplaced key directly, checks the most likely quick fix, and sets up a backup step without blocking another class. A strong response explains that leaving the wrong key in place makes the next checkout harder, even if Sadie's group finds another stand.

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