

## **Losing My Rose-Colored Glasses**

I took off my rose-colored glasses, and now I can't find them. Actually, they were my brand new reading glasses with pink frames and I lost them after I'd worn them once. Then I found them, put them in a safe place, and haven't seen them since.

If this were an isolated incident, I might still be wearing rose-colored glasses figuratively, if not literally, but I've lost so many things that it's hard to stay optimistic. If I could locate every pair of gloves and sunglasses I've ever lost, I could open a nice little Glove and Sunglasses Boutique. The funny thing is, the minute I realize they're missing, I know right where I left them--on the counter of a business I've visited recently. I just don't notice they're missing soon enough to remember which business it was.

We bought my son a roll-top desk when he was younger, but I was afraid he'd lock it then misplace the key. A roll-top desk with the top locked isn't much good for stacking laundry, which is mainly what he uses it for, so I took the key and misplaced it for him.

I lost a pair of black sweat pants. I have another pair, but they're too short, so now I can't exercise. I must still have a trace of rose-colored optimism though, because I saved the matching sweatshirt. And I've saved the partner for every sock I've ever lost. I keep them in a large bag in the bedroom while I await the return of their . . . uh . . . sole mates.

The people who study such things estimate we spend an average of ONE YEAR of our lives looking for lost items--not all at once, of course. Eventually we have to take off our rose-colored glasses and accept that whatever we've misplaced is going to stay lost--at least until we no longer need it. So we have to give up looking and run out and buy another pair of gloves, or socket wrench, or vacuum cleaner.

And never mind time, who knows how much money we spend replacing lost items. I buy cheap sunglasses, because I don't want to get too attached to them. But a relative told me that if I bought expensive sunglasses like he does, I would never lose them. I was still considering his viewpoint the next day when I found his fancy sunglasses right where he left them--in my car.

I don't believe you're any less likely to lose something you've spent a lot of money for; I just think you'll look harder if you do. I recently heard a news story about a man who accidentally tossed his wife's \$10,000 diamond ring into the trash while he was cleaning the bathroom. He spent hours digging through the landfill until he found it. You don't do that for cubic zirconia.

That leads me to one of the biggest problems caused by misplacing items: Damage to relationships. A parent and child aren't building happy memories while they look for the child's retainer in the school lunch room trash. And I bet things were a little tense in the home of the man who lost the diamond ring--though I'd give him points for cleaning the bathroom.

But there's more subtle damage to relationships too. Let's say you ask a family member, "Have you seen my reading glasses?" On paper, that looks like a benign question. But most likely, you're not asking on paper.

There's often an accusatory edge in our voices when we ask someone if they've seen a misplaced item. At least there is when I ask. That's because when I'm saying, "Have you seen my reading glasses," I'm really saying, "Where DID YOU PUT my reading glasses?" And when they say, "No," what they're really saying is, "I did not touch your reading glasses. I do not need reading glasses and if I did, I wouldn't wear pink ones!"

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