

Decision Making Exercise “The Cash Register”

Directions:

Read the story below and circle the appropriate response for all fifteen statements that follow it: “T” for true, “F” for “false”, and “?” for don’t know.

The Story:

A businessman had just turned off the lights in the store when a man appeared and demanded money. The owner opened a cash register. The contents of the cash register were scooped up, and the man sped away. A member of the police force was notified promptly.

Statements about the story:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. A man appeared after the owner had turned off the lights. | T | F | ? |
| 2. The robber was a man. | T | F | ? |
| 3. The man did not demand money. | T | F | ? |
| 4. The man who opened the cash register was the owner. | T | F | ? |
| 5. The store owner scooped up the contents of the cash register and ran away. | T | F | ? |
| 6. Someone opened the cash register. | T | F | ? |
| 7. After the man who demanded money scooped up the contents of the cash register, he ran away. | T | F | ? |
| 8. While the cash register contained money, the story does not state how much. | T | F | ? |
| 9. The robber demanded money from the owner. | T | F | ? |
| 10. The story concerns a series of events in which only three persons are referred to: The owner of the store, a man who demanded money, and a member of the police force. | T | F | ? |
| 11. The following events in the story are true: someone demanded money, a cash register was opened, its contents were scooped up, and a man dashed out of the store. | T | F | ? |
| 12. The story did not involve any women. | T | F | ? |
| 13. Immediately after the robbery, the owner of the store contacted the police. | T | F | ? |
| 14. The robber got away with the contents of the cash register. | T | F | ? |
| 15. The event took place at the close of the business day. | T | F | ? |

Courtesy of:

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Directions for Facilitator:

- a. Each group selects a leader.
- b. Facilitator designates role of the leader to be:
 - Autocratic – Makes all the decisions and the rest of the group must agree.
 - Democratic – Without discussion, the group votes on the correct answer, and the leader must accept the majority (and can be a tie breaker).
 - Creative – Facilitates discussion on each statement to come up with group answer.
- c. Time how long it takes for each group to complete. (When autocratic or democratic group finishes, group can revisit the questions with a “creative” leader.)
- d. Cap the exercise at 20 minutes.
- e. Share answers and record number of correct answers by each type of leader.

Leader’s name | Time taken to complete | # of questions correct

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Answer Key:

1. A man appeared after the owner had turned off the owner had turned off the lights. T F ?
You don't know if the owner and businessman are the same.
2. The robber was a man. T F ?
You don't know whether there was an actual robbery.
3. The man did not demand money. T **F** ?
Double negative statement. A man did demand money.
4. The man who opened the cash register was the owner. T F ?
The story does not say whether the owner was male or female.
5. The store owner scooped up the contents of the cash register and ran away. T F ?
Story does not indicate who scooped up the contents of the register.
6. Someone opened the cash register. **T** F ?
Yes. Someone did open the cash register.
7. After the man who demanded money scooped up the contents of the cash register, he ran away. T F ?
Story does not say who scooped up the contents of the cash register, so it is unclear as to whether the man who demanded the money also scooped up the contents of the cash register.
8. While the cash register contained money, the story does not state how much. T F ?
Contents of the cash register is not specified.
9. The robber demanded money from the owner. T F ?
Again, you do not know whether there was a robbery.
10. The story concerns a series of events in which only three persons are referred to: The owner of the store, a man who demanded money, and a member of the police force. T F ?
There could be more involved. For example, if the businessman or owner are different people.
11. The following events in the story are true: someone demanded money, a cash register was opened, its contents were scooped up, and a man dashed out of the store. T F ?
Story does not indicate whether the man who sped away was in the store.
12. The story did not involve any women. T F ?
Gender is never identified.
13. Immediately after the robbery, the owner of the store contacted the police. T F ?
You do not know who contacted the police.
14. The robber got away with the contents of the cash register. T F ?
Again, we don't know whether this was in fact a robbery. And you don't know whether the contents of the cash register were taken at all.
15. The event took place at the close of the business day. T F ?
Lights being turned off might indicate that this was the end of the business day, but then again the timeframe is not specifically stated.