

Seven Things That One Cannot Live Without

I know that there are important things in life, such as faith, family, health and friends. But there are other small things in life that it is just impossible to enjoy life without. One never realizes this until one doesn't have one of those things. And when they are not there, life is miserable, chaotic and extremely frustrating.

Item 1. The Channel Changer. Some people call this a "remote" but I call it a "channel changer." I simply cannot lead life without a working channel changer. How many times do you walk into the family room and can't find the channel changer? And then you have to check in between the couch seat cushions, bend down and look under the couch, pick up clutter and you still can't find it. The thought of actually having to go to the T.V. each time you want to change channels is absolutely paralyzing!! If I could invent a mechanism, such as a GPS or something, that would immediately locate a lost channel changer, I think I would make a million dollars. And then there's the case of the channel changer going on the fritz, or losing battery power. Day after day goes by of having to endure no channel changer. I remember the last time this happened, my wife went quickly to the store and replaced a bad channel changer. When I saw it, I exclaimed, "You have saved my life. Life without a channel changer is just not worth living."

Item 2. Sunglasses. I absolutely cannot go outside or drive my car without my sunglasses. When I get in the car and start driving somewhere and realize I have left them at home, I freak out. Worse yet, is when I can't remember where I have placed them. They need a GPS finder also. I find myself going to my closet and frantically searching my coat pockets, retracing the steps of my life, wondering where they are. I remember the time I was on a plane and put my coat, with my sunglasses in it under the seat. When I got out of the airport, I realized

my sunglasses had slid out of my pocket and were left in the plane. Three hundred dollar sunglasses!! My wife just laughed at me—even though I was in intense pain— and said, “That’s why I never spend more than \$10 on sunglasses.”

I shall never forget a couple of weeks ago when I was in the Atlanta airport and saw a nice pair of Ray-ban sunglasses on the bathroom counter. I immediately had empathy for the poor soul who had left them there. One can only imagine the pain he went through as he tried to reconstruct his day, trying to remember where he had left them and then realizing from his home in Seattle that he had left them in the Atlanta airport, never to have them again.

Item 3. Your Cell Phone. How many times have you found yourself in the car, realizing that you did not have your cell phone? Immediately your thoughts move to, “Oh my God, what am I going to do? What if I have car trouble? I’ll be stranded. No one will be able to reach me! This is terrible!!” Then there are other times, like the sun glasses, when you don’t remember where you left it. Your immediate thought is, “Oh my God, it’s lost! Someone else has my iPhone!” Then you find yourself searching your coat pockets again, frantically hoping to find it. The only redeeming thing about this is that sometimes in the search for the cell phone, you find that nice pen you thought you had lost (another hard to live without item). Then comes the profound sense of relief when you find it.

Item 4. Your own Car. Our car is our own personal “small territory” apart from the bigger “territories” of our home and office. We put our stuff in there; stuff we need; stuff we have stored there for certain events or emergencies. How many times have I gotten to a soccer game and gone to get my comfortable soccer chair out of the car when I realize: “It’s not there! This is not my car! Darn it” (or words to similar effect). Just today, I took my wife’s car to work because she needed my truck. I arrived early to find the door locked and reached for the

key to the office. But, it wasn't there. It wasn't there because it's on my truck key ring. I was stuck out in the cold for thirty minutes and I couldn't call anyone for help because my cell phone, which I also keep in my truck when I am driving, was in my truck!!

Item 5. Reading Glasses. People under forty do not need to read this paragraph, but people over 40 will identify. How many times do you go to read something, like the paper, or a map, or a phone number, and you can't, because you can't find your reading glasses? As with the sun glasses and the cell phone, you frantically retrace your life's steps. "Where did I leave them? Have I lost them? They were such nice gold rimmed glasses." And you frantically search, until you find them while searching your coat pockets for the cell phone you lost three days ago.

Item 6. Your Watch. Many times when I leave for the office in the morning, I have this funny feeling that I have forgotten something, but I can't put my finger on what it is. And then, half way to work, a profound sense of nakedness overtakes me as I feel the empty space on my wrist. "I forgot my watch! Darn it (or words to similar effect). What am I going to do? This is going to mess me up for the rest of the day. Other people are going to see that I am not fully dressed. How will I cope?"

Item 7. That One Thing You Forgot to Pack. I don't care how hard I try; there is always one personal item that I forget to pack for a trip. There is not a worse feeling in the world than being in a hotel room and discovering as you unpack that you do not have an important personal item. This causes such a sense of distress it is impossible to describe. It may be your toothbrush, your brush, your toothpaste, your deodorant, or your favorite cologne. I think the worst thing I ever forgot was cufflinks for the French cuff shirt I had especially picked out for a speech I was to give. I used safety pins. That was classy! I hate this so much that I designed a

“suitcase packing checklist” for trips. But, even with the checklist, destiny always takes over and something is forgotten.

I think life would be a lot better if these important things weren't lost so often. If anyone has a solution, send me an e-mail!