

3rd August 2020

Checking

“Measure twice, cut once.”

Anonymous

It's always best to check things. “Measure twice, cut once” is not only an important axiom in DIY, it's a good motto for the whole of life. Take on-line shopping, for example. During this lockdown, my wife and I have become familiar with on-line grocery shopping. We were used to on-line purchases and up-to-speed with our IT knowledge, but getting our heads round a weekly delivery from a Supermarket was taxing at first. But we got there, and, over the weeks, managed to secure the groceries we needed.

The shopping-list is carefully entered in the Supermarket's website the day before. For every item, there's a counter for “how many?” For three tins of beans you make sure the counter reads “3”; one melon, it's set at “1”, two cans of tuna, it's “2”. Simple, eh? Until you come to bananas.

Now, I have permission to tell this story so I know I won't get into trouble ... but when my wife set the counter at “1” for bananas, she expected (well, wouldn't *you*?) that it meant one *bunch* of bananas. But what *actually* arrived with the grocery delivery? Yes, you've guessed it – *one* solitary banana, which was to last us a whole week.

I'm sure Mary's not the first person to make a mistake with on-line shopping ... four deliveries of the same thing arrive because you pressed the “order” button three more times as you didn't believe the website had taken the order the first time; I've had 500 envelopes delivered when I only wanted 50; and I've heard of someone getting 14 blouses when they thought they'd just ordered one in a size 14!

It's better to check, and double-check, before you commit. “More hurry, less speed” is true in all of life. Check what you say before you say it. Check your angry email before you send it. Check your criticism to make sure you have the facts right. Check your ability before you take something on. Careful consideration – checking and double-checking – really matters.

A prayer for today

Does love still matter, Lord? Oh, it does. Why am I asking? Oh, just checking. I've done that before? Yes, I know. But double-checking where love is concerned has got to be OK, doesn't it? Good! Just checking ...

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>