

It's Never Easy

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Randy had a lot of yard work to do on the weekend. He hadn't had time last week, so that meant more this week. That was okay, he thought, because he'd just have to start early. If he got right on it, he could be done in maybe an hour and a half.

He started with the hedge clippers. The big pair of scissors helped him trim bushes and even out hedges. With these, he removed branches that stuck out funny or were too close to the ground. It made it easier to cut the grass later if the branches weren't in the way. Only, the left handle broke while he was working. He had to put in a new screw and then tape up the handle to finish. Then, he cleared away the brush and extra trimmings from the bushes.

Now it was time to cut the grass. He checked over the riding mower. He had to pump up three of the tires, because they were a little low. Next, he refilled the gas. Then it was time to start, but the engine wouldn't turn over. A little irritated, he checked everything out and even hand-turned the cylinders a couple times to get the engine loosened up. Finally, it started.

Things should have gone well then. Instead, the mower deck was making noises. He stopped, checked it out, and decided a belt was loose. He got wrenches and tightened the belts to see if that would help. He started mowing again, and it was still not sounding right. Just when he was about to get off and check more bolts and tension springs, it started sounding better. An hour later, the grass was cut.

Now it was time to use the gas trimmer. He checked that carefully and started it up without any issues, which was a relief. About halfway through trimming, the plastic cutting line ran out. Randy had to take off the cutting head and replace the line. That was always annoying. Eventually, the grass was cut and trimmed.

Randy decided to water a couple bushes that looked dry, but the hose didn't work. He had no water! What was going on today? He played with the breaker box in the garage to make sure the well had power and checked all the connections. Now the well worked. Finally, he could water the plants and go inside... three hours after he'd started!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why does Randy have so much yard work to do now?
 - A. He was on vacation.
 - B. He didn't have time to do it last week.
 - C. He's lazy and let it go too long.
 - D. He likes outside work.
2. What is Randy's first task in the yard?
 - A. clipping hedges
 - B. using the gas trimmer
 - C. watering plants
 - D. using the riding mower
3. What is Randy's last task in the yard?
 - A. clipping hedges
 - B. using the gas trimmer
 - C. watering plants
 - D. using the riding mower
4. Which of these is NOT one of Randy's problems when he was working?
 - A. The well was off and he had no water.
 - B. The lawn mower was making noises.
 - C. The gas trimmer ran out of cutting line.
 - D. It began to rain.
5. How long did it take for Randy to finish all of his work?
 - A. two hours
 - B. an hour
 - C. an hour and a half
 - D. three hours

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