



# Operation Occupation: Unlock Your Potential

## 2025 Escape Room Answer Key

### 2025: Hospitality, Events, & Tourism

Lock Type	Answer
Lock 1 – 123	<b>2020</b> <b>Hint:</b> number refers to vision (time stamp 1:04).
Lock 2 – ABC	<b>POPCORN</b> <b>Hint:</b> notice the three (3) popcorn related words in the clue; popcorn is shown (either the food item or the word) three (3) times in the video (time stamps 0:18, 0:33, 1:18)
Lock 3 – Colors	 <b>Hint:</b> at 0:51 of the video, workers in red aprons are shown in front of a fresh donut/bagel display case. Notice the flavors listed below the donuts on the first 2 racks and color or the color of the fruit to solve the puzzle. Apple - red (1st row, top left) Lemon - yellow (2nd row, middle left) Black Raspberry - black and red (2nd row, middle) Blueberry - blue (2nd row, middle rack)
Lock 4 – 123	<b>29392312</b> <b>Hint:</b> at 0:22 of the video a lineup of green pedal boats are shown, each having their own number. Working from left to right, use the numbers displayed on the side of each boat.
Lock 5 – Shapes	 <b>Hint:</b> Around 1:36 Casie talks about her favorite aspects of her job – notice the wall behind her and use the shapes of the pennant banner with stars (2 rows, use shapes from each row 1 time = 1 triangle and 1 star per line); then moving into the least favorite parts of the job use the shape of the trampoline off to the side (time stamp 2:08)

### 2025: Arts, Entertainment, & Design

Lock Type	Answer
Lock 1 – ABC	<b>PORTFOLIO</b> (time stamp 1:02)
Lock 2 – 123	<b>60</b> <b>Hint:</b> the narrator states that about 60% of photographers are self-employed (time stamp 0:26).
Lock 3 – 123	<b>214</b> <b>Hint:</b> floral stores are preparing orders for Valentine's Day, use the month and date of this LOVE holiday to solve <b>(2/14)</b> (time stamp 1:08).
Lock 4 – Directional	<b>↓↓→←↑↓↓←↓</b> <b>Hint:</b> using north, south, west, east directions based on the first letter of the bolded artist's name.
Lock 5 – Colors	 <b>Hint:</b> read the poem and use the colors in the order they are listed.

## 2025: Digital Technology

Lock Type	Answer
Lock 1 – Shapes	● ● ▲ ■ ● <b>Hint:</b> around 0:15 of the video a group of 3 people are featured sitting in a booth with a brainstorming wall covered with notes, shapes, etc. In the middle of the board is a “bubble” that has shapes. These are the shapes that will solve the lock. The “N2” reference could also be translated to “in to.”
Lock 2 – ABC	<b>DATA</b> <b>Hint:</b> the narrator tells us that data scientists use different techniques to extract information from large complex data sets and put them into a form that can be analyzed, a practice known as “data mining” (time stamp 0:47).
Lock 3 – ABC	<b>BACHELORS</b> <b>Hint:</b> the narrator references the educational degree held by IT Project Managers (time stamp 1:11).
Lock 4 – Colors	● ● ● ● <b>Hint:</b> Use the poem (specific color words) to determine the color combo. Note: Golden = Yellow
Lock 5 – Directional	↑ ↓ ← → ↓ ↑ <b>Hint:</b> using up, down, left, and right. Also focus on the words <b>small</b> and <b>tall</b> .

## 2025: Education

Lock Type	Answer
Lock 1 – ABC	<b>ADJUNCT</b> <b>Hint:</b> around 0:58 of the video the narrator speaks about part-time, or adjunct professors, often work in their field.
Lock 2 – Colors	● ● ● <b>Hint:</b> a Harold Washington Elementary School sign is displayed; there are some icons with words in the bottom left corner (time stamp 0:39): Green book – Read a book Red crayon - Mustangs Yellow pencil – A great place to learn
Lock 3 – 123	<b>24</b> <b>Hint:</b> the numbers you are looking for are mentioned at 0:19 of the video when the narrator says “Preschool teachers educate and care for children ages 2-4.”
Lock 4 – Colors	● ○ ● <b>Hint:</b> Becky Hammon, Rapid City, SD native, is speaking into a microphone in front of a San Antonio Spurs media backdrop (time stamp 0:09). The microphone has the NBA logo; from left to right the colors are: Blue White (silhouette of player) Red
Lock 5 – ABC	<b>LINK</b> <b>Hint:</b> around 0:52 of the video the narrator says that interpreters are the LINK between those who have the information and those that need the information.

## 2025: Energy and Natural Resources

Lock Type	Answer
Lock 1 – ABC	<b>GIS</b> <b>Hint:</b> Geographic Information System is referred to as GIS (time stamp 0:04).
Lock 2 – Colors	 <b>Hint:</b> around 0:14 of the video four individuals in hard hats are looking off to the side. From left to right, use the color of the hard hats on a head to identify the color order.
Lock 3 – ABC	<b>MATH</b> <b>Hint:</b> the narrator says, high school science and MATH courses are helpful. The words 'add up' in the lock set-up should encourage students to pick math for the answer (time stamp 1:30)
Lock 4 – 123	<b>41215</b> <b>Hint:</b> the numbers you are looking for are shown on the utility meter at 0:56 of the video when the narrator says, "Most operators work for local governments, while some work for utilities."
Lock 5 – ABC	<b>GREEN</b> <b>Hint:</b> around 0:53 of the video the narrator suggests that there will be a shift to GREEN energy in the coming decades.

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Learn more at [extension.sdstate.edu](http://extension.sdstate.edu).

© 2026, South Dakota Board of Regents

MC-03051-02-01-2025-Answer-Key-v2



SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Learn more at [extension.sdstate.edu](http://extension.sdstate.edu).

MC-03051-02-01-2024-Answer-Key-v2

© 2026, South Dakota Board of Regents