

# The Yardstick Dilemma

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This story took place sometime in the 1970s. My mother was going to make new curtains for a room at the church. The church was an old building with tall windows around seven or eight feet high. My mother used a yard stick at the church to make the measurements. Then back at the house she used her yardstick to cut the material.

After completing the sewing she took the curtains to the church to hang them. They were about six inches too short. She used the church yardstick again to check the measurements. The window height measured the same as before. Puzzled, she went home. She measured the curtains with her yardstick and the height was correct. My mother was very particular about measurements and would not make such a mistake.

Not sure what was wrong, my mother drove back to the church to check the window measurements again. Using the church yardstick every length agreed with her original measurements. But the curtains were too short. She drove back home and again rechecked the curtains with her yardstick. The measurements were correct at the house but they were too short at the church. How can this be?

This is one of those moments when one is just not sure of what is going on. After some pondering my mother discovered the problem. Her yard stick had been sawed off at 33 inches. My father had needed a small piece of wood for something and the yardstick had been convenient. I suppose all women will say that that is typical for a man.