LEARNING ABOUT MUSEUM LOCKERS
I will visit a Smithsonian museum soon. Many visitors bring things with them.
Adults may bring combs, brushes, wallets, hats, mittens, jackets, cell phones, maps, guide books, baby carriers, toys for toddlers and things like that.
Students may bring coats and backpacks with books, notebooks, pens, pencils, and stuff like that.
Children may bring a favorite item, like a toy.
These things may be heavy. **Lockers** can help.

A locker is a metal box with a lock and key.

At a museum, lockers **keep items safe** while people visit.
People often decide to place their things in a museum locker. That way, they do not have to carry their things with them.

They will be more comfortable as they visit the museum. And, their items will not be lost while visiting the exhibits.

All the while, their items stay safe in the locker. Later, people use the key to get their things.
There are times when a locker may not be available. There may be many people who want to use a locker. There may not be enough lockers for everyone.
Out of Order

Sometimes, a locker has a sign on it that says, “Out of Order”.

This means that the locker is not working correctly. “Out of Order” lockers are not used, and stay empty all day.
Available Lockers

If a locker is **available**, I may be told to place my things in it. I will get my item back later, when we open the locker with the key.
When I visit the museum, I may use a locker. I may use a locker to make it more comfortable to visit the exhibit, and to keep my things safe.