The exception that becomes the rule

CEFR C2 | Unit 6: Policy | Reading

Read the original text. You may underline evidence and reread as needed.

Name _____ Date _____

POLICY ARGUMENT A
A shared workspace should prohibit unattended reservations. A room held by someone who never arrives is unavailable to everyone else. A rule that releases a booking after fifteen minutes gives users a predictable way to recover that capacity. Exceptions should be rare, because a rule that can be negotiated at every use ceases to coordinate anything.

POLICY ARGUMENT B
Predictability is valuable, but the same threshold can have different effects. A user assisting someone with access needs may be delayed for a reason the booking system does not record. If every delay is treated as disregard for others, the policy may punish the conduct the organization says it supports. An exception process is therefore part of a workable rule, not necessarily an escape from it.

The disagreement concerns the design of discretion. Argument A anticipates inconsistency and lost capacity; B anticipates exclusion and misclassification. Neither establishes that its feared consequence will occur in every case. A briefing should identify those anticipated consequences and distinguish them from observed incidents.

A possible recommendation retains automatic release while allowing a clearly communicated contact route for a bounded extension. The extension must have a defined maximum and a recorded reason, with only the information needed for the booking decision. Reviewing patterns could reveal whether the threshold or the exception process needs revision. The recommendation remains a choice among trade-offs; describing it as a solution that satisfies everyone would conceal the costs each argument asks the reader to notice.

Original Ilmiya practice text. Scenarios and research examples are fictional.