What To Do If Something Stops Working

This is just a simple guide to try before replacing any component. A lot of problems are small stuff like a loose wire or the Pi acting up.

If the microphone stops working

Make sure the mic wires did't come loose from the Pi. They pop out easier than you think.

Check if the Pi even sees the mic:

```
arecord -l
```

Restart the Pi and try again, sometimes that actually fixes it.

Run the mic test script (test_mic.py) if you want to double check the audio setup. Also check the audio libraries because if one is missing it wont record at all.

If none of this helps the mic might actually be dead and you will probably need to replace it.

If the camera stops working

First thing always check the ribbon cable. Make sure it's pushed in fully on both sides. Even a tiny bit loose will break it.

Look at the ribbon to see if it's bent too sharp or damaged. These cables are kinda sensitive.

Restart the Pi and try recording again.

Run the camera test script (test_camera.py). If that script errors out then the Pi is not detecting the camera so its usually the ribbon cable or the camera itself.

If the Pi wont turn on

Make sure the battery actually has charge. Sometimes it looks plugged in but the battery is empty.

Try a different micro usb cable. Some cables only charge they dont do data and can mess stuff up.

Try powering the Pi from a wall outlet just to test it. If it turns on there then the battery or cable was the issue.

Take the SD card out and put it back in so its seated right.

If it still wont power on then the SD card might be corrupted and you prob need to re image it.

If the Pi freezes or wont record

Restart the Pi (yeah I know but it works most of the time)

Check the SD card space. If it is full or close to full the recording scripts will freeze.

Try running the script again after a reboot.

Run a simple test script for camera or mic to see if those still work. If one of them fails that's the reason the recording freezes.

Sometimes the SD card is just slow or corrupted and needs a re image.

If WiFi wont connect

Make sure the WiFi network uses a normal password. If it needs a username and password (like school wifi) the Pi cant join that by default.

Check the WiFi name. If it has weird symbols or like spaces sometimes that causes issues.

Try typing the WiFi name and password again in Raspberry Pi Imager to make sure it wasn't just a typo.

Make sure the correct country was picked when setting up wifi in the imager. If it's set wrong the wifi wont work at all.

Try connecting the Pi to a hotspot from your phone just to see if the Pi wifi is working.

If it still wont connect you can re image the SD card and set the wifi again.

If SD card errors happen

Copy anything important off the card onto your laptop first.

Re image the SD card using Raspberry Pi Imager.

Put the project folder back onto the SD card after imaging.

Put the SD card back into the Pi and try again.