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Chapter 3: Page 61 Question 1

- a. According to act-utilitarianism, George should lie to his supervisor to prevent causing unhappiness for himself and his boss. Lying will essentially cause no net change in happiness, while telling the truth will cause unhappiness for George because he very well could lose his job, and cause unhappiness for his boss because he will lose an employee. According to rule-utilitarianism, George should tell the truth, because the rules that have been put into place, ideally, are rules that will lead to the greatest good. George may experience immediate unhappiness, but the consequences of his actions may lead to lessons learned further down the road that lead to more happiness in total. George's boss may experience unhappiness because he lost an employee, but he may be able to find a more responsible employee to replace George, leading to more happiness in total.
- b. According to act-utilitarianism, Jillian should take the ledger home for her daughter as long as it will not cause financial stress for the company. The ledger will cause happiness for Jillian's daughter, and will cause almost no unhappiness for the company, assuming the ledger being gone causes no problems. This means that there is a net gain in happiness. According to rule-utilitarianism, Jillian should ask her supervisor for permission to take the ledger because the rules were put into place for a reason. Ideally, those rules were put into place to cause the most happiness. For example, the rule, if followed correctly, may save the company money, and the company may put that money saved into many different things, like bonuses for the employees or better quality equipment and supplies for the employees. This will increase the happiness for everyone that works at the company, instead of just happiness for Jillian's daughter.

