The Unclaimed Ticket

Four coloured tickets lie on the station counter. Their printed numbers have faded, but the clerk remembers their order. A parcel can be released only when you identify the number of the red ticket.

The tickets are Green, Red, Blue and Gold, used once each. From first to last, the four positions carry ticket numbers 31, 32, 33 and 34. Every clue below is true. Colour names are labels; you do not need colour printing.

1. The Blue ticket is immediately before the Gold ticket.

2. The Red ticket is neither first nor last.

3. The Green ticket is somewhere before the Blue ticket.

Position	Ticket number	Colour
1	31	
2	32	
3	33	
4	34	

Which number belongs to the Red ticket? _____

Explain your deduction:

Hint and answer are on the next page. Stop here if you want to solve unaided.

The parcel can be released

One hint

The Blue-Gold pair cannot occupy positions 1 and 2 because Green must be before Blue. What happens if the pair occupies positions 2 and 3?

The answer: ticket 32

If Blue and Gold were second and third, Green would have to be first, leaving Red last. That breaks clue 2. The only remaining placement is Blue third and Gold fourth. Red cannot be first, so Red is second and Green first.

Number	31	32	33	34
Colour	Green	Red	Blue	Gold

The Red ticket is 32. Its owner collects the parcel and makes the final train. All 24 possible colour orders were checked; exactly one fits the three clues.

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