

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

1. Answer the following questions with your teacher.

1. How often do you skip work? What are your usual excuses for not going to work?
2. When was the last time you didn't go to work? Why?

2. Look at the pictures below. Do you think that they have good excuses for not going to work?



3. Think of three excuses for not going to work.

4. **READING PRACTICE.** Read the article. Are your ideas mentioned?

Typical excuses for not going to work.

What are some of the typical excuses for not going to work in your country? A recent survey by market research company WorkPower lists the most common ones in the UK. Do you recognize any of them?

“My pet dog is feeling depressed and I need to be with him.”

“My kids are sick and they can't go to school. There's no one else to look after them, so I've got to stay at home.”

"My car's broken down on the side of the road and the tow truck is taking forever."

"I've got to renew my passport. The appointment is for 11 a.m., but it could take a while."

"My neighbour's water pipes have broken and it's flooded my living room. I've got to wait for the plumber to get here."

"I've got food poisoning. I think it was that food we ate at the restaurant we went for the staff dinner."

"I've got tummy trouble and I need to go to the bathroom every five minutes. I could come in, but I won't be able to get much work done."

"My cousin has just gone into labour and I'm the only person who lives close enough to get her to the hospital in time!"

"I've locked my keys in the car. I've called the locksmith, but they said that they're really busy and it's going to be a while before they get here."

"I've caught this stomach virus. The doctor says it's just a 24-hour one, so I should be in tomorrow."

"I've got terrible backache and I can't get up off the sofa. The doctor's coming round later today. I'll let you know how I get on."

"I've got an awful migraine and I can't stand being in the light. Hopefully it won't last too long."

"I was a witness to a hit-and-run accident and I've got to go to the police station to give a statement."

"My accountant has really messed up my tax return form and I'm being audited. I need to spend the day sorting it out."

So, which excuse do you think is the most credible?

5. Answer the following questions about the text from the exercise 4.

1. What is the funniest excuse? What is the most ridiculous one?
2. Have you ever used any of those excuses?

6. VOCABULARY PRACTICE. Match the words with their definitions.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. a tow truck | ___ | a) when a government inspector checks you are paying enough tax |
| 2. to take a while | ___ | b) a car accident in which a driver crashes then leaves without helping a victim |
| 3. a plumber | ___ | c) a person who makes or replaces locks (holes in doors for keys) |
| 4. a locksmith | ___ | d) a very painful headache |
| 5. to audit | ___ | e) a person who fixes pipes/toilets |
| 6. a hit-and-run accident | ___ | f) when something takes a long time to complete |
| 7. migraine | ___ | |

g) a vehicle for pulling cars that have stopped working

7. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

tow truck	take a while	plumber	locksmith
be audited	hit-and-run accident	migraine	

1. We have just moved in a new flat, that's why we need a _____ to change all the locks.
2. Every spring I have a terrible _____. I usually stay in bed for 3 days with all the curtains closed.
3. I will help you seen, but first I need to finish this take. It may _____.
4. It's important to have a phone number of a _____ service. You never know where your car may break down.
5. There is water everywhere. We need to call a _____.
6. The police is looking for a driver who was involved in a _____.
7. They haven't been paying taxes for a while, so the next week they are going to _____.

8. SPEAKING PRACTICE. Discuss the following questions with your teacher.

1. Which excuses are common in your country?
2. What is the funniest excuse you have ever heard?
3. Have you ever pretended to be sick in order not to go to work? Did your employer believe you?

ANSWER KEY

1. Answer the following questions with your teacher.

Student's answer.

2. Look at the pictures below. Do you think that they have good excuses for not going to work?

Student's answer

3. Think of three excuses for not going to work.

Student's answer.

4. **READING PRACTICE.** Read the article. Are your ideas mentioned?

Student's answer.

5. Answer the following questions about the text from the exercise 4.

Student's answer.

6. **VOCABULARY PRACTICE.** Match the words with their definitions.

1. g
2. f
3. e
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. d

7. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

1. locksmith
2. migraine
3. take a while
4. tow truck
5. plumber
6. hit-and-run accident
7. be audited

8. **SPEAKING PRACTICE.** Discuss the following questions with your teacher.

Student's answer.