excuse

1 Verb + excuse

Use the correct form of these verbs:

have	*look for*
make up	*provide with*
run out of	*use as*

1. I think I've ..... excuses for not doing my homework, so I'd better get started!
2. So, why was Ted late again this morning?
   > Who knows? As usual he ..... some excuse about his car breaking down, but nobody believes a word he says any more.
3. Football teams always blame the referee when they lose a game, but everyone knows they only ..... him ..... an excuse for their poor playing.
4. I'm sorry I ..... no excuse for being late. It was my own stupid fault. I slept in.
5. Our son, Josh, is really lazy. He's always ..... an excuse to avoid doing any work around the house.
6. My father's illness ..... me ..... an excuse not to have to go to Mary's leaving party. I was glad to see her go!

2 Common adjective collocations

Use these adjectives to complete the sentences:

convenient	*good*
old	*poor*

1. No, he didn't come and help us after promising to. He gave some ..... excuse about falling asleep in front of the TV and expected us to believe it.
2. Dad will be absolutely furious! We'll have to think up a pretty ..... excuse for staying out so late.
3. He's always making the same ..... excuse for not finishing his work on time. I'm becoming sick and tired of listening to them. Can't we just fire him?
4. Fortunately, I have a ..... excuse for missing the meeting. My son's been taken ill at school and I've got to take him home.

We use a number of verbs for providing excuses. Find the four in the sentences above:

.....	.....
.....	.....

3 Poor excuses

We use a number of words to describe poor excuses. Underline them in the sentences below:

1. You missed the bus! That's a lame excuse – you should have left the house a bit earlier.
2. I'm afraid I can't come – I've got to go home and feed my dog.
   > Oh, come on, that's a pathetic excuse!
3. He said he couldn't play because he had hurt his finger. What a feeble excuse!
4. You won't come out with me because you're planning to wash your hair! That's not much of an excuse!



"He's always making up excuses to get out of doing any housework!"

Notes

1. Note the following expressions:
   There's no excuse for that kind of behaviour. The guilty players should be thrown out of the team.
   She only needs the slightest excuse to go shopping. Don't encourage her!
   I'm tired of listening to your excuses.
2. Notice the structures that can follow *excuse*:
   It's just an excuse to do nothing.
   It was just an excuse for doing nothing.
3. Note this common question:
   So what's your excuse?
4. Note this common structure:
   There's no excuse for what he did.
   There's no excuse for such rudeness.
   There's no excuse for arriving late.

LIVEWORKSHEETS