

16

Making excuses

1 People are making many requests of Eric. Write the requests. Use **ask**, **tell**, or **say** and reported speech.



1. **Mark:** "Eric, take my phone calls."
2. **Julie:** "Can you do an Internet search for me, Eric?"
3. **Andrew:** "Could you check this flash drive for viruses?"
4. **Tanya:** "Eric, put this information on a spreadsheet."
5. **Carla:** "Don't forget to add paper to the copier, Eric."
6. **Alan:** "Reformat this text file as a PDF file."
7. **Bruce:** "Get me some coffee, Eric."
8. **Cindy:** "Make five copies of the agenda before the meeting."
9. **Jack:** "Could you give me a ride home?"
10. **Robin:** "Don't be late to work again."

1. Mark told Eric to take his phone calls.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2 Nouns and verbs

A Complete the chart.

| Noun | Verb | Noun | Verb |
|------------|-----------|------|---------|
| acceptance | accept | | explain |
| | apologize | | invite |
| | complain | | offer |
| | excuse | | suggest |

B Complete these sentences. Use the correct form of the words from part A.

1. This coffee tastes awful. I'm going to complain to the waiter about it.
2. I invited an invitation to Billy and Kate's house for dinner.
3. I didn't want to go to Jenny's party, so I made up an excuse.
4. I was rude to my teacher. I must apologize to him.
5. Can you explain the end of the movie? I didn't understand it.
6. Steve said he'd take me to the airport. It was really nice of him to offer.
7. Thank you for your helpful advice on how to fix my essay.
The teacher really liked it!
8. I received an invitation to Mindy's party. I can't wait to go.

3 Choose the correct verb. Use the past tense.

express give make offer tell

1. Jennifer told me she was graduating from college, so I offered her my congratulations.
2. I made a complaint to the police because our neighbors' party was too noisy.
3. I couldn't go to the meeting, so I expressed my concerns in an email.
4. Jake gave an excuse for being late for work. He said there had been a traffic jam on the highway.
5. Lori was very funny at the class party. As usual, she told a lot of jokes.



4 What a great excuse!

A Read the invitations and excuses in these text messages between Eileen and William.



Hi, William. It would be wonderful if you could come to our party next Friday! It's Mick's birthday and I really think that he would appreciate it if you could be there. All of his friends will be there. The best part is that Mick doesn't know everyone is going to be there. It's a surprise birthday party! So please come and be part of the surprise.

Hi, Eileen. Thank you for the invitation. You know I would love to come if I could, but unfortunately I am working late on Friday. I have to study for my examination next week. So, have a great time without me, and of course I will send a present to Mick.

Oh, William, come on! Please come. The best present you can give to Mick is being with him on his birthday. I know everyone would really enjoy seeing you, too.

Eileen, I really should study for the test. I know I will probably regret not going, but I think I should stick to my plan.

William, you are so right when you say you will regret it if you don't come to Mick's birthday party. All of your friends will be there. As a matter of fact, I mentioned you to Penelope and she said she is looking forward to talking to you at the party. We will all be disappointed if you don't come. Especially Penelope!



Eileen, I've given it some thought and you are right! I should go to Mick's party. In fact, wild horses couldn't stop me. See you on Friday!

B Read the phrases that you underlined. Answer these questions.

1. Why did Eileen text William?
2. Why can't William come to the party?
3. Why do you think William decided to accept the invitation after all?

5 Sorry, but . . .

A The teacher wants to have a class picnic on Saturday. Look at the excuses that students gave her. Change each excuse into reported speech using say.



1. Tim: "I'm getting my hair cut."

Tim said he was getting his hair cut.

2. Teresa: "My sister is having a baby shower."

3. Bill: "I may have some houseguests on Saturday."

4. Miyako and Yoshiko: "We're going camping this weekend."

5. Marco: "I'm sorry, but I'll be busy on Saturday afternoon."

B Change these excuses into reported speech using tell.

1. Abbie: "I signed up for a scuba diving class."

Abbie told her she had signed up for a scuba diving class.

2. Paul and James: "We'll be moving to our new apartment that day."

3. Luis: "I watch the football game on TV every Saturday."

4. Sandra: "I've already made plans to do something else."

C Read the excuses below. Rewrite them in reported speech using tell.

1. Emma: "I have to take care of my little brother tonight."

2. Daniel: "I'm going on a trip with my family this weekend."

3. Carla: "I don't feel very well today."

6 What did they say?

A Match the reports of what people said in column A with the descriptions in column B.

A

1. Sam said that he was talking to Jim in the office for an hour.
He's very unhappy about the new company rules. c
2. Brian said that the game was canceled because of
bad weather. _____
3. Nina said she would be studying on Saturday
night. (But she'll actually be at the movies.) _____
4. Carl told me he couldn't come for dinner on Friday.
He said he had to work late. _____
5. Max told me that he didn't want to go to the party because
Kayla would be there. _____

B

- a. giving a reason
- b. refusing an invitation
- c. making a complaint
- d. telling a lie
- e. making an excuse

B Write each person's original words.

1. Sam: "I was talking to Jim in the office for an hour. He's very unhappy about the new company rules."
2. Brian: _____
3. Nina: _____
4. Carl: _____
5. Max: _____



7 Choose the correct responses.

1. A: We're going to go hiking. Do you want to join us?

B: _____

- Sorry, I won't be able to.
- What's up?

2. A: I'm really sorry. We'll be out of town this weekend.

B: _____

- I've made other plans.
- No problem.

3. A: Meet us at 7:00. OK?

B: _____

- Oh, that's all right.
- OK, sounds like fun.

4. A: I'm sorry. I won't be able to make it.

B: _____

- Well, never mind.
- Great.



8 Yes or no?

A Which expressions would you use to accept an invitation? To refuse an invitation?

Check (✓) the correct answer.

| | Accept | Refuse |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I'm really sorry. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Great. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Sounds like fun. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I've made other plans. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I won't be able to make it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. I'm busy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Thanks a lot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. I'd love to. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B Drag and drop each acceptance or refusal to the correct invitation.

1. Would you like to come to a soccer match with me tomorrow?

Accept:

Refuse:

2. That new action movie looks great! Do you want to see it with me?

Accept:

Refuse:

3. A friend asked me to go to the mall after class. Do you want to join us?

Accept:

Refuse: