

Choosing the Best Excuse

PAIR WORK

Read the situations below. Then read the excuses. Choose a good excuse for each situation. Write the excuse below each of the situations. If you can think of a better excuse, write that instead.



1. A secretary calls you to make an appointment for a job interview. However, you were interviewed the day before for another job that you would like. You want to wait to find out if you got that job. What excuse will you give the secretary?

2. Your family has invited you for lunch on the weekend. You know your mother enjoys getting the family together each weekend, but this weekend you would like to take a trip with some friends. The problem is, you don't want to upset your mother. What excuse will you give her?

3. You have a dentist's appointment. You have to cancel the appointment because you have decided to change dentists, but you don't want to tell the dentist that. If you don't come for the appointment, the dentist will charge for the visit and send you a bill. What excuse can you make to the dentist?

4. You have been invited to the wedding of a neighbor. It is very nice of him/her to invite you, but you won't know any of the guests and you would rather not go. You don't want to be rude by declining the invitation. What excuse can you give?

Suggested excuses:

- a. I'm afraid I can't come. I won't be in town on that day.
- b. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I do need a weekend away to relax.
- c. Can we make it next week instead? I haven't time this week.
- d. Can we make it next week instead? I've some urgent work to finish.
- e. I have to cancel the appointment because I've decided not to have the work done.
- f. I'm sorry I can't come. I've had another invitation.
- g. I have to cancel the appointment because my car is being fixed and I can't get to you any other way.
- h. I'm sorry I can't keep the appointment. I've a headache and I'm not feeling well.