

9J – Review Answers



You try Answers will vary

Try to fill in the missing words below without looking at the text. When you are finished, check your answers.

1. *Can't you* tell him I'm busy?
2. Oh, didn't you get it? *I thought* I emailed it to you.
3. I *must* have forgotten to send it; it's been very stressful around here *and* I've had a lot on my *plate*.
4. Don't give me any of your *pathetic* excuses, Jefferson.
5. I can't *seem* to find the file. I think maybe my computer has *chewed* it up.
6. Jefferson, *shape* up or *ship* out!
7. Some *rubbish* about traffic and ear infections. They *reek* of booze.
8. I'm just trying to arouse her *sympathy* so she doesn't feel so let down.

What do you think would have happened in each conversation if everyone had told the truth? If everyone had been honest about what they had done wrong, the other people in the conversations wouldn't have been so angry at their excuses.



Your turn Answers will vary

What are some common excuses people use in these situations? Write down at least three for each one.

1. I don't want to exercise because...
I'm too busy at work, and the gym membership is too expensive. It's too hot out.
2. I'm not doing well in school because...
The teacher is hard to understand. I can't see the board well. I don't have time for homework.
3. I can't travel abroad because...
I'm scared to speak English in public. Also, I don't get enough vacation time from work. And it's too expensive.
4. I can't learn a second language because...
It's very difficult for an English speaker to memorize another writing system. The grammar is too different from English. I can't remember new vocabulary.



Do you know? Answers will vary

Can you remember a public apology given by someone famous, e.g. a politician, sports star or musician? Did they make excuses?

I remember that Lance Armstrong, the famous cyclist, had to apologise for using performance-enhancing drugs to win his races. He made the excuse that "everyone else does it," but everyone was still very angry.

Do you trust someone who always makes excuses?

I never trust people who always make excuses. Everybody makes occasional mistakes, but if they are constantly making excuses for those mistakes, it means they aren't learning from them.