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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 随身英语



### What's your excuse?

### 你有什么借口?

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#### Vocabulary: Excuses 词汇: 借口

Have you ever taken a **sickie**? If so, what did you say to your boss? It seems many people in the UK like to blame their pets for their **absence**.

One person said they couldn't come to work because their rabbit was missing. Perhaps that was a **white lie**; this next one though sounds more like a **porky**.

A worker said that he couldn't come to work because he had to take his dog to the vet. This might seem reasonable - apart from the fact that the man told his boss his dog was dead as a previous excuse for **skiving off**.



Sorry sir, the dog ate my homework!

If you've ever worked as a teacher, you'll know that children can be very creative when it comes to excuses for not doing their homework.

Once again, it's popular to blame pets. According to a BBC survey, almost 10 percent of excuses involve pets eating the **assignment**. "The dog ate my homework" is a **legendary** excuse - no one is sure if a student has ever really used it.

But it's not just workplaces and schools which attract **fibbers**. People caught claiming **welfare benefits** illegally have also tried to **con** the authorities. A husband whose wife was working while also **on the dole** said that he didn't know she had a job because he was always in the **garden shed** during working hours.

There are many more **ridiculous** excuses people have made for not doing the things they were supposed to do. But there isn't enough room on this page to fit them all. And besides, I can't carry on because... the cat's eaten my keyboard. What about you: what's your excuse?

## 词汇表

<b>sickie</b>	装病
<b>absence</b>	缺勤, 缺席
<b>white lie</b>	善意谎言
<b>porky</b>	谎言
<b>to skive off</b>	旷工, 逃学
<b>assignment</b>	作业
<b>legendary</b>	传奇的, 典型的 (借口)
<b>fibber</b>	爱撒小谎的人
<b>welfare benefit</b>	福利津贴
<b>con</b>	欺骗
<b>on the dole</b>	领取政府救济的
<b>garden shed</b>	花园小棚屋
<b>ridiculous</b>	荒谬可笑的

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What happened to a rabbit which was used as an excuse for someone not going to work?
2. Why was taking the dog to the vet not a good reason to miss work?
3. True or false? A pupil used the excuse "The dog ate my homework" for not finishing their school work.
4. When is claiming welfare benefits considered a con?
5. What did the author say that you can be sure is just an excuse?

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. If you say you can't go to work or school because you are ill when you are in fact healthy, we call this \_\_\_\_\_.

a white lie	a sickie	an assignment	a holiday
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2. I told my teacher I saw a ghost flying away with my homework and she said it was \_\_\_\_\_ excuse!

a reasonable	a white	a ridiculous	an illegal
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3. When it comes to excuses, my 10-year old nephew \_\_\_\_\_.

is very creative	is a fibber	tells a white lie	skives off
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4. The teacher didn't believe her pupil's excuse when he said the dog ate his homework. "It \_\_\_\_\_ more like a porky", she said.

looks	feels	tastes	sounds
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5. John told his auntie her stew was delicious. He actually hated it but he told a \_\_\_\_\_ because he didn't want to upset her.

sickie	con	white lie	legendary excuse
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What happened to a rabbit which was used as an excuse for someone not going to work?

**The rabbit owner said the animal was missing.**

2. Why was taking the dog to the vet not a good reason to miss work?

**Because the person had previously said the dog was dead.**

3. True or false? A pupil used the excuse "The dog ate my homework" for not finishing their school work.

**False. According to the article no one is sure if that excuse has really been used.**

4. When is claiming welfare benefits considered a con?

**When the person claiming is not entitled to the benefit.**

5. What did the author say that you can be sure is just an excuse?

**That the author's cat ate his keyboard.**

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. If you say you can't go to work or school because you are ill when you are in fact healthy, we call this **a sickie**.

2. I told my teacher I saw a ghost flying away with my homework and she said it was **a ridiculous** excuse!

3. When it comes to excuses, my 10-year old nephew **is very creative**.

4. The teacher didn't believe her pupil's excuse when he said the dog ate his homework. "It **sounds** more like a porky", she said.

5. John told his auntie her stew was delicious. He actually hated it but he told a **white lie** because he didn't want to upset her.