

## Excuses (Grammar)

**Description:** A walk-around activity in which the students answer each other's questions following a pattern, but then extend the answer by making up a reason of their own.

**Use with or after:** *English Network Plus (New Edition)*, Unit 8.

**Skill:** Grammar

**Focus:** Future in the past using *was/were going to*.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Preparation:**

- Print out the second and third pages of this file (on stiff paper if possible) and cut along the dotted lines. This will give you 16 different prompt cards.
- If you have more than 16 students in your class, make an extra copy of one of the pages and use some of the prompts twice.

**Procedure:**

- Write on the board:

*Why didn't you go jogging?  
Well, I was going to go jogging, but ...*

- Explain that in this activity they will have to ask and answer questions following this pattern, but then extend the answer by giving a reason of their own.
- Ask the class for suggestions about how to extend the answer on the board, for example: *Well, I was going to go jogging, but I was too tired.*
- Give each student one of the prompt cards. Ask them to stand up, walk around and talk to one person at a time. At each encounter, each student should read out the first sentence and check that the other person gives the correct second sentence and then extends it by giving a reason.
- Afterwards, each student should tell the class about the most interesting excuse they heard during the activity.

Why didn't you come to the party?

Well, I was going to come to the party, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't your friends answer my e-mail?

Well, they were going to answer your e-mail, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you and your friend come to the pub on Saturday?

Well, we were going to come to the pub on Saturday, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you apply for a new job?

Well, I was going to apply for a new job, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you buy a better computer?

Well, I was going to buy a better computer, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you apologise for coming late?

Well, I was going to apologise, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't your friends tell you what was wrong?

Well, they were going to tell me, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you complain about your hotel room?

Well, I was going to complain about it, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't your brother fly to Arizona for his holiday?

Well, he was going to fly to Arizona, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't your sister tell you about the accident?

Well, she was going to tell me, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you and your family emigrate to Australia?

Well, we were going to emigrate to Australia, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you do your homework?

Well, I was going to do my homework, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you lock your bicycle?

Well, I was going to lock my bicycle, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't you and your friend follow my advice?

Well, we were going to follow your advice, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't your brother have his car repaired?

Well, he was going to have his car repaired, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.

Why didn't your friends learn English?

Well, they were going to learn English, but ...

Afterwards, tell the class about the most interesting excuse you have heard.