

Homework Excuses.

Students have so many excuses for not doing their homework. Here are a list of the top excuses students make when asked, "Why didn't you do your homework?"

1. What? We had homework? I don't remember you giving us any homework.
2. Sorry teacher. I was sick in bed all night. I couldn't do my homework.
3. I put it in my bag. Really! I must have left my homework at home.
4. My father wasn't home to help me with my homework.
5. My computer stopped working and I couldn't do my homework.
6. I didn't understand what you wanted us to do so, I gave up.
7. My dog ate my homework! Really!
8. My sister got angry and threw my homework away.
9. Sorry, I was absent from class yesterday. Nobody told me, we had homework.
10. Sorry. I forgot we had homework. Are you sure you gave us homework?

Teacher, I really don't have any excuse. Just give me a detention. I'll do the homework after class.

What's your best excuse for not doing your homework? Let us know in the comments.

All My Great Excuses

Read the poem below 'All My Great Excuses' and fill in the gaps with the **past simple tense** of the verb in brackets.

I _____ (start) on my homework
but my pen _____ (run) out of ink.
My hamster _____ (eat) my homework.
My computer's on the blink.

I accidentally _____ (drop) it
in the soup my mom was cooking.
My brother _____ (flush) it down the toilet
when I wasn't looking.

My mother _____ (run) my homework
through the washer and the dryer.
An airplane _____ (crash) into our house.
My homework _____ (catch) on fire.

Tornadoes _____ (blow) my notes away.
Volcanoes _____ (strike) our town.
My notes _____ (are) taken hostage
by an evil killer clown.

Some aliens abducted me.
I _____ (have) a shark attack.
A pirate _____ (swipe) my homework
and _____ (refuse) to give it back.

I _____ (work) on these excuses
so darned long my teacher said,
"I think you'll find it's easier
to do the work instead."

-- Kenn Nesbitt



Making Excuses Skit

Intended age group: Elementary through high school

Time Needed: 10 minutes

Learning objectives: Participants will elaborate on the facets of responsibility.

Materials needed: Five copies of the skit (see next page).

Overview:

Ask for five volunteers to act out a skit. Assign roles and pass out copies of the skit to the volunteers. Have them act out their parts, preferably with feeling. If you'd like, quickly ask members of the audience to chime in with other common excuses.

Suggested discussion questions:

- What could these students have done to be more accountable, to use self-restraint and to strive for excellence?
- How do you think the students felt about not having their homework done? How should they have felt?
- How do you think Mrs. Burt felt when her students came to class unprepared?
- We all make mistakes sometimes. How should you handle a situation when you are unprepared but want to make up for it?
- How would students feel if their teacher came to class unprepared (i.e., forgot to make copies of worksheets, did not bring the video, etc.)?
- What would happen if these students acted irresponsibly every single day for a month?
- What would happen if everyone in society acted irresponsibly?
- What would happen if everyone in society acted responsibly all the time?

Making Excuses Skit

Mrs. Burt: “Class, turn in your homework now.”

Ted: “I had tennis practice, indoor soccer and gymnastics. Then there was the midnight hockey game. There just wasn’t any time left for homework!”

Jean: “Eric said we didn’t have to turn it in until tomorrow!”

Bob: “Mrs. Burt, I didn’t think you’d mind me forgetting this one homework assignment.”

Sue: “I did mine, Mrs. Burt, but I accidentally wrote it in my little brother’s invisible ink.”

Mrs. Burt: (Shaking her head, looking at audience . . .) “I think something’s wrong here.”