

excuse**1. [ɪk'skju:s] n****1. извинение**

there is no excuse for it - это непростительно

give them my excuses - извинитесь перед ними за меня

I owe you every excuse for my behaviour yesterday - я должен принести вам глубочайшее извинение за мой вчерашний поступок

2. 1) оправдание

in excuse - в оправдание

this is no excuse - это не может служить оправданием /извинением/

without good excuse - без уважительной причины

it affords ample excuse for ... - это служит достаточным оправданием для ...

ignorance of the law is no excuse - незнание закона не может служить оправданием

2) отговорка, предлог

lame /poor, thin/ excuse - слабая /неубедительная/ отговорка

on /under/ various excuses - под разными предлогами

to make /to offer/ excuses - оправдываться, находить отговорки

he had numerous excuses to offer for being late - он находил многочисленные отговорки /предлоги/, чтобы оправдать свои опоздания

he is good at making excuses - ≅ он всегда сумеет отговориться

3) повод, предлог

he gave his audience an excuse for yawning - его выступление не могло не заставить слушателей зевать

excuse for a prosecution - повод для привлечения к суду

excuse for aggression - предлог для агрессии

3. освобождение (от обязанности, работы и т. п.)**4. презр. бракованный экземпляр; суррогат; подделка**

that coward is barely an excuse for a man - этот трус просто пародия на человека

his latest effort is a poor excuse for a novel - его последнее произведение - это суррогат романа

2. [ɪk'skju:z] v**1. извинять, прощать**

excuse me! - прости(те)!, виноват!, извини(те)!

please excuse my interruption - извините, что я вас перебиваю

excuse my glove - простите, что я не снял перчатку (при рукопожатии)

excuse me for coming late, excuse my coming late - извините за опоздание

please excuse the delay - **кани.** просим извинить нас за задержку

2. служить оправданием

this does not excuse him - это его не оправдывает

to be excused by law - находить юридическое оправдание

injustice excuses strong responses - несправедливость оправдывает энергичный отпор

3. освобождать (от обязанности, работы)

to excuse smb. from attendance - освободить кого-л. от присутствия, разрешить кому-л. не присутствовать (на собрании и т. п.)

I cannot excuse you from attending the classes - я не могу освободить вас от посещения /отпустить вас с/ занятий

we will excuse your presence - мы разрешаем вам не приветствовать

he asked to be excused from the lesson - он просил отпустить его с урока

he was excused the entrance fee - он был освобождён от вступительного взноса

4. refl**1) извиняться, просить прощения**

he excused himself for being so careless - он извинился за свою неосторожность

2) просить разрешения удалиться

I excused myself from the table - я извинился и вышел из-за стола

3) отпрашиваться; просить освободить (от чего-л.)

he excused himself from participating in the card game - он попросил уволить его от участия в карточной игре

I should like to excuse myself from attending the meeting - разрешите мне не присутствовать на собрании

4) оправдываться; отговариваться чем-л.

he excused himself by saying he was not well-disposed - в своё оправдание он сослался на нездоровье

excuse

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

ex·cuse [excuse excuses excused excusing] **noun, verb****noun** BrE [ɪk'skjuː] ; NAmE [ɪk'skjuː]**1. a reason, either true or invented, that you give to explain or defend your behaviour**

• Late again! What's your excuse this time?

• ~ (for sth) There's **no excuse for** such behaviour

• ~ (for doing sth) His excuse for forgetting her birthday was that he had lost his diary.

• You don't have to **make excuses** for her (= try to think of reasons for her behaviour) .

• It's late. I'm afraid I'll have to **make my excuses** (= say I'm sorry, give my reasons and leave) .

2. a good reason that you give for doing sth that you want to do for other reasons

• ~ (for sth/for doing sth) It's just an excuse for a party.

• ~ (to do sth) It gave me an excuse to take the car.

3. a very bad example of sth
 • Why get involved with that pathetic excuse for a human being?
 4. (NAme) a note written by a parent or doctor to explain why a student cannot go to school or sb cannot go to work

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **excuser** (verb), from Latin **excusare** 'to free from blame', from **ex-** 'out' + **causa** 'accusation, cause'.

Thesaurus:

excuse noun C

• What's your excuse for being late today?

explanation • **justification** • **pretext** • **reason** • **grounds** • |BrE **defence** • |AmE **defense** • |law **plea** •

(a/an) excuse/explanation/justification/pretext/reason/grounds **for** sth

(a) **good/valid** excuse/justification/reason/grounds/defence

have (a/an) excuse/explanation/justification/pretext/reason/grounds/defence

Synonyms:

reason

explanation • **grounds** • **basis** • **excuse** • **motive** • **justification** • **pretext**

These are all words for a cause or an explanation for sth that has happened or that sb has done.

reason • a cause or an explanation for sth that has happened or that sb has done; a fact that makes it right or fair to do sth: ▪ He said no but he didn't give a reason.

explanation • a statement, fact or situation that tells you why sth has happened; a reason given for sth: ▪ The most likely explanation is that his plane was delayed. ◊▪ She left the room abruptly without explanation.

grounds • (rather formal) a good or true reason for saying, doing or believing sth: ▪ You have no grounds for complaint.

basis • (rather formal) the reason why people take a particular action: ▪ On what basis will this decision be made?

excuse • a reason, either true or invented, that you give to explain or defend your behaviour, a good reason that you give for doing sth that you want to do for other reasons: ▪ Late again! What's your excuse this time? ◊▪ It gave me an excuse to take the car.

motive • a reason that explains sb's behaviour ▪ There seemed to be no motive for the murder.

justification • (rather formal) a good reason why sth exists or is done: ▪ I can see no possible justification for any further tax increases.

grounds or justification?

Justification is used to talk about finding or understanding reasons for actions, or trying to explain why it is a good idea to do sth.

It is often used with words like **little**, **no**, **some**, **every**, **without**, and **not any**. **Grounds** is used more for talking about reasons that already exist, or that have already been decided, for example by law: **moral/economic grounds**.

pretext • (rather formal) a false reason that you give for doing sth, usually sth bad, in order to hide the real reason: ▪ He left the party early on the pretext of having to work.

(a/an) reason/explanation/grounds/basis/excuse/motive/justification/pretext **for** sth

the reason/motive **behind** sth

on the grounds/basis/pretext of/that...

(a) **good/valid** reason/explanation/grounds/excuse/motive/justification

Example Bank:

- Delivering the stuff for Rodney gave me an excuse to take the car.
- Don't let perfectionism become an excuse for never getting started.
- He became moody and unreasonable, flailing out at Katherine at the slightest excuse.
- He had no excuse for being so late.
- He invented a pathetic excuse about losing his watch.
- He made up a rather lame excuse for the work being late.
- He made up some stupid excuse to the teachers.
- He's run out of excuses for not cleaning his room.
- Her mother's illness provided her with an excuse to stay at home.
- I don't want to hear any more excuses.
- It's late. I'm afraid I'll have to make my excuses.
- Justin mumbled some excuse and left.
- She had to find a valid excuse for leaving the room.
- She made some feeble excuse about the car having broken down.
- She seized on every excuse to avoid doing the work.
- She's a pitiful excuse for an actress.
- The children provided a convenient excuse for missing the party.
- The political crisis is being used as an excuse to dock people's pay.
- What possible excuse could he have?
- You don't have to make excuses for her.
- a built-in excuse for failure
- a sorry excuse for a man
- an acceptable excuse for missing school
- Late again! What's your excuse this time?

Idiom: †**excuse me**

verb BrE [ɪk'skjuːz] ; NAmE [ɪk'skjuːz]

- to forgive sb for sth that they have done, for example not being polite or making a small mistake
 - ~ **sth** Please excuse the mess.
 - ~ **sb** You must excuse my father— he's not always that rude.
 - ~ **sb for sth/for doing sth** I hope you'll excuse me for being so late.
 - (BrE) You **might be excused for** thinking that Ben is in charge (= he is not, but it is an easy mistake to make).
 - ~ **sb doing sth (formal)** Excuse my interrupting you.
- ~ **sth** | ~ **sb/yourself (for sth/for doing sth)** to make your or sb else's behaviour seem less offensive by finding reasons for it
Syn: ↑justify
 - Nothing can excuse such rudeness.
- ~ **sb/yourself (from sth)** to allow sb to leave; to say in a polite way that you are leaving
 - Now if you'll excuse me, I'm a very busy man.
 - She excused herself and left the meeting early.
- usually passive** ~ **sb (from sth/from doing sth)** | ~ **sb sth** to allow sb to not do sth that they should normally do
 - She was excused from giving evidence because of her age.

more at excuse/pardon my French **at** ↑French _n.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	excuse
	BrE /ɪk'skjuːz/
	NAmE /ɪk'skjuːz/
he / she / it	excuses
	BrE /ɪk'skjuːzɪz/
	NAmE /ɪk'skjuːzɪz/
past simple, past participle	excused
	BrE /ɪk'skjuːzɪd/
	NAmE /ɪk'skjuːzɪd/
-ing form	excusing
	BrE /ɪk'skjuːzɪŋ/
	NAmE /ɪk'skjuːzɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **escuser** (verb), from Latin **excusare** 'to free from blame', from **ex-** 'out' + **causa** 'accusation, cause'.

Thesaurus:

- excuse** verb T
- Please excuse the mess.
- forgive** • • **pardon** • • **condone** •
- Opp:** condemn
- excuse/forgive/pardon/condone sb **for** sth
 excuse/forgive/condone sb's **behaviour**
 Excuse/Forgive/Pardon **my** ignorance.

Example Bank:

- He tried to excuse his behaviour as 'a bit of harmless fun'.
- I asked her to excuse me for my late arrival
- You'll have to excuse Harriet— she's having a difficult time at work.
- I hope you'll excuse me for being so late.
- You might be excused for thinking that Victoria is in charge.
- You'll have to excuse my father— he's not always that rude.

excuse

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **ex'cuse**¹ **S1** /ɪk'skjuːz BrE " AmE " verb [transitive]

[Word Family: verb: ↑excuse; noun: ↑excuse; adverb: ↑inexcusably; adjective: ↑excusable ≠ ↑inexcusable]
[Date: 1400-1500; Language: Old French; Origin: excuser, from Latin excusare, from causa 'cause, explanation']

- excuse me** spoken
 - used when you want to get someone's attention politely, especially when you want to ask a question:
Excuse me, can you tell me the way to the museum please?
 - used to say that you are sorry for doing something rude or embarrassing:
Oh, excuse me. I didn't know anyone was here.
 - used to ask someone politely to move so that you can walk past:
Excuse me, could I just squeeze past?
 - used to politely tell someone that you are leaving a place:
Excuse me a moment. I'll be right back.
 - used when you disagree with someone but want to be polite about it **SYN I'm sorry**.
Excuse me, but I don't think that's what he meant at all.
 - American English** used to show that you disagree with someone or are very surprised or upset by what they have just said:
'You're going to pay, right?' 'Excuse me?'

g) especially American English used to ask someone to repeat something that they have just said **SYN** pardon me:

‘What time is it?’ ‘Excuse me?’ ‘I asked you what time it is.’

2. **FORGIVE** to forgive someone for doing something that is not seriously wrong, such as being rude or careless:

‘I’ll excuse you this time, but don’t be late again.’

‘Please excuse my bad handwriting.’

excuse somebody for (doing) something

‘Please excuse me for being so late today.’

Smith can be excused for his lack of interest in the course (=his lack of interest is reasonable).

REGISTER

In informal situations, people often say **sorry about ...**, **sorry for doing ...** or **sorry I ...** rather than asking someone to **excuse** something:

▪ Sorry about my handwriting.

▪ Sorry for being so late. OR Sorry I’m so late.

3. **FROM A DUTY** [usually passive] to allow someone not to do something that they are supposed to do

excuse somebody from (doing) something

‘Can I be excused from swimming today? I have a cold.’

4. **EXPLAIN** to be or give a good reason for someone’s careless or offensive behaviour:

‘Nothing can excuse that kind of rudeness.’

5. **FROM A PLACE** to give someone permission to leave a place:

‘May I please be excused from the table?’

6. **excuse yourself** to say politely that you need to leave a place:

‘Richard excused himself and went to his room.’

7. **excuse me (for living)!** *spoken* used when someone has offended you or told you that you have done something wrong

II. **excuse**² **S3** /ɪk'skjuː/ \$ *BrE* *AmE* *noun* [countable]

[Word Family: verb: ↑excuse; noun: ↑excuse; adverb: ↑inexcusably; adjective: ↑excusable ≠ ↑inexcusable]

1. a reason that you give to explain careless or offensive behaviour

excuse for (doing) something

‘What’s your excuse for being late this time?’

‘I’m tired of listening to his excuses.’

2. a reason that you invent to explain an action and to hide your real intentions

excuse to do something

‘I need an excuse to call her.’

excuse for

‘The conference is just an excuse for a holiday in New York.’

3. **there is no excuse for something** used to say that someone’s behaviour is too bad to be explained or accepted:

‘There is no excuse for such rudeness.’

4. **make your excuses** to explain why you are not able to do something:

‘Please make my excuses at the meeting tomorrow.’

5. **a poor/rotten etc excuse for something** used when you think someone or something is very bad:

‘He’s a rotten excuse for a lawyer. Why on earth did you hire him?’

6. *American English* a note written by your doctor or one of your parents saying that you were ill on a particular day **SYN** sick note

British English

• • •

COLLOCATIONS (for Meanings 1 & 2)

■ verbs

▪ **make up/think up/invent an excuse** I made up some excuse about my car breaking down. | We’d better think up an excuse, fast.

▪ **make excuses for somebody/something** (=give reasons which try to explain why someone has made a mistake or behaved badly) His mother was always making excuses for her son’s behaviour.

▪ **use something as an excuse** She never complained or used her illness as an excuse.

▪ **look for an excuse** I began to look for excuses to avoid seeing him.

▪ **give an excuse** I’ll have to give my boss some kind of excuse.

▪ **believe /accept an excuse** She didn’t believe his excuse for one minute.

▪ **have an excuse** Companies have no excuse for breaking the law.

■ adjectives

▪ **a good excuse** A sunny day is a good excuse to go to the beach.

▪ **a wonderful excuse** (=a very good excuse) A wedding is a wonderful excuse to buy a new outfit.

▪ **a reasonable/plausible excuse** (=one that other people will believe) If your train was cancelled, that is a perfectly reasonable excuse.

▪ **a legitimate /valid excuse** (=one that is true and that other people cannot criticize) He didn’t have a legitimate excuse for being late.

▪ **the perfect excuse** The phone call gave me the perfect excuse to leave.

▪ **a feeble/flimsy/weak excuse** (=one that is difficult to believe) Joe muttered some feeble excuse about having a headache.

▪ **a pathetic/lame excuse** (=very weak) That’s the most pathetic excuse I’ve ever heard.

▪ **the usual excuse/the same old excuse** He made the usual excuses for not coming. | Whenever the trains are late, it’s always the same old excuse.

▪ **a convenient excuse** The rioting provided the government with a convenient excuse not to hold an election.

■ phrases

▪ **use every excuse in the book** (=use every possible excuse) He used every excuse in the book to avoid seeing the doctor.

- **at the slightest excuse** (=for any reason, however unimportant) She comes to our house at the slightest excuse.

• • •

THESAURUS

■ a reason that does not seem believable

- **excuse** a reason that you give to explain why you have done something bad, or not done something that you should have done – especially one that is not completely true: She said she couldn't come because she had to work late, but it was just an excuse. | a feeble excuse (=one that is hard to believe)
- **pretext** *especially written* an untrue reason that you give for doing or not doing something, in order to hide the real reason: He would often find some pretext to go out in the evening alone. | They used this as a pretext for taking military action.

excuse

Freakuency Pack

12500 **3331**^{MCW}

15000 **2019**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** EXCUSE 17285

excuse 13216

excusing 207

excuses 2292

excused 1184

excusable 57

inexcusable 329

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

4458 **5711**⁶⁵⁸¹ *vv0*

4610 **6570**⁵⁴⁷⁷ *nn1*

989 **19581**¹¹²⁸ *vvi*

23 **160008**²⁴ *jj*

6 **347444**⁶ *nnu*