



Excuses Survey - July 2000

ICM Research interviewed a random sample of 1000 adults aged 18+ by telephone between 28th-30th July, 2000. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults.

Q1. Have you ever used a stomach ache/upset as an excuse for not going to work?	
Yes	9%
No	91%

Q1. What is the most bizarre excuse you have ever used for not going to work?	
Never used any	6%
General illness	3%
Backache	2%
Headache	2%
Hangover	2%
Cold	1%
Family death	1%
Overslept	1%
Flu	1%
Migraine	1%
Bad weather	1%
Dog died	1%
Car broken down	1%
Alarm didn't work	1%
Hurt foot	1%

TOP VERBATIM EXCUSES:
A BMW fell on me
A fox crept in the van and I had to call the RSPCA
My mum had a heart attack but she died three years earlier
I had not put any feed in for the goldfish

I am allergic to deodorant
Bad hair day!
Bra strap trauma
Dog ate the car keys
I broke my finger on the door at McDonalds
I can't afford to buy a watch yet
I was commentating on Radio Oxford. I knew I was safe because my boss could not pick up Radio Oxford in his area.
I have dyed my hair the wrong colour
One bloke said he could not come in because he thought it was Sunday
I'm allergic to coleslaw
My cat was mugged
At a BBQ I accidentally ate a tulip bulb thinking it was an onion
One bloke at work said he felt like he was having a baby
Someone said their fingers were broken but they got someone to break them deliberately by having them stamp on them
The Big Breakfast TV program was in the house
The police dragged me off for an ID parade
The van in front of me had an aircraft land on top of it
I lost two hours of my life - I could not remember what I did.
I did not turn up on my first day at work because I forgot I had a job