

Teacher Topics

Excuses, Excuses



"My son is under the doctor's care and should not take P.E. today," wrote a parent. "Please execute him."

"Please excuse Mary for being absent," wrote another parent. "She was sick and I had her shot."

These drastic measures were inadvertently taken in notes written by parents to excuse their children's absences from school.

In fairness to pupils throughout the land, I must point out that slaughtering the English language is a practice that is not limited only to students. An astonishing number of grownups blithely go about murdering the Queen's English without any inkling that they are committing a serious crime.

If you think that today's students aren't learning all they should, check out some of the writing miscreated by their moms and dads. The following are actual excuse notes received by teachers:

- Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- John has been absent because he had two teeth taken off his face.
- Mary could not come to school because she has been bothered by very close veins.
- Stanley had to miss some school. He had an attack of whooping cranes in his chest.
- Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.
- Please excuse Harriet for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- Please excuse my son's tardiness. I forgot to wake him up and I did not find him till I started making the beds.
- Please excuse Mary from being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.
- Maryann was absent November 11-16 because she had a fever, sore throat, headache, and upset stomach. I wasn't the best either, low grade fever and ached all over. There must be the flu going around school. Her father even got hot last night.

Now have a look at some excuse notes written by the parents of famous students. While the previous notes are real, these pun-in-cheek examples are made up:

- Please excuse Rip Van Winkle for missing the past twenty years of school. He overslept.
- Please excuse Goliath for his absence from school yesterday. He got stoned and developed a terrific headache.
- Please excuse Spiderman for not handing in his homework. He was too busy surfing the Web.
- Please excuse the Hulk for his absence from school yesterday. He experienced a growth spurt, and we couldn't find any clothes that would fit him. We are also wondering if the school offers any classes in Anger Management.
- Please excuse Dracula for missing the entire school year. We can't seem to stop him from staying up all night, and it's impossible to wake him up in the morning.
- Please excuse The Invisible Man for his absence yesterday. We couldn't find him to send him off to school.
- Please excuse The Wolfman from school for the next week. He is suffering from Irritable Howl Syndrome.
- Please excuse Abraham Lincoln for the rest of the year. He has moved to a Gettysburg address.
- Please excuse Ralph Nader from school for the rest of the year. He has determined that the school bus is unsafe at any speed.
- Please excuse Peter Roget for missing school yesterday. He was sick, ill, unwell, stricken, run down, feeling yucky, feeling punky, under the weather, down in the mouth, and green around the gills.
- Please excuse Isaac Newton from school for a few days while he recovers from a mild concussion. An apple fell on his head.
- Please excuse Salvador Dali for being late to school. His watch melted, and he couldn't read the time.
- Please excuse Rin Tin Tin for not handing in his book report. He ate his homework.



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