

Classroom Pragmatics - Arriving Late & Leaving Early

Late Arrival

- What should you do if you arrive late to class?

Rate this late arrival:

Teacher: What time do you call this?

Student: Sorry I'm late, traffic, I was eating, lost the bus."

Now this one:

Teacher: What time do you call this?

Student: Hi Tim, I'm really sorry for being late. It's my fault, you see, I was having lunch with my friends and I lost track of time. It won't happen again.

Identify the different stages:

1. Greeting
2. Initial apology
3. Accept responsibility/place blame
4. Give explanation
5. Promise action

Useful language

Initial apology	Accept responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm really sorry foring • Apologies foring • I apologise profusely foring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's (all) my fault... • I'm to blame... • It's on me...
Introduce explanation or excuse	Promise action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You see,... • It's just that... • What happened was... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It won't happen again. • I'll try harder to next time. • I promise I'll/I won't...

Role-play

<https://rolladie.net/roll-a-d20-die> - roll a 20-sided die to choose your excuse then role-play the situation with your partner.

Excuse Table

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I overslept. 2. My last class/meeting overran. 3. I lost track of time. 4. I missed the bus and had to wait for the next one. 5. I got stuck in traffic. 6. The metro line was down. 7. I got distracted. 8. I had a (dentist's) appointment. 9. My (pet/family member) was sick. 10. I lost my (bag/phone/etc.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. My bag got stolen. 12. I fell over/tripped and hurt my (ankle/knee) 13. I had a car/bike/motorbike accident. 14. My car/bike/motorbike broke down. 15. My house/flat got burgled/broken into. 16. A water pipe burst in my house/flat. 17. I got held up at the (doctor's/dentist's/bank) 18. I got caught in the rain/snow. 19. I got splashed by a puddle. 20. There's been a death in the family.
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Leaving Early

- How would you ask the teacher if you can leave early?

Rate this request:

Student: I have to leave early today. I have to go to the dentist. Here you have a note from my dad.

Now this one:

Student: Hi Tim, would it be ok if I left early today? I'll only miss the last 20 minutes of class. The thing is, I have a dentist's appointment at 3 o'clock, it's the only slot they had. I'll get the notes off Maria before next class and if you could let me know the homework, that'd be great.

Identify the different stages:

- Greeting
- Initial request
- Softening
- Introduce reason
- Promise action/mitigation

Polite Requests	Introducing explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would it be ok if + past simple• Would it be possible to + inf.• Do you think I could + verb...?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The thing is,...• It's just that,....• You see,....

Role-play

<https://rolladie.net/roll-a-d10-die> - roll a 10-sided die to choose your excuse then role-play the situation with your partner. Think of ways to soften the request (I'll only miss 20 minutes of class)

Excuse Table

1. It's your (family member's) birthday.
2. You have a big sporting event.
3. You have an important exam tomorrow morning.
4. You have a flight/train to catch.
5. You have a dentist's appointment.
6. You have a doctor's appointment.
7. You have an appointment at the hairdresser's.
8. You have an important business meeting.
9. You have to go home to look after your kids/younger siblings.
10. You have an important family dinner.

KEY - ARRIVING LATE

Teacher: What time do you call this?

Student: Hi Tim, I'm really sorry for being late. It's my fault, you see, I was having lunch with my friends and I lost track of time. It won't happen again.

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LEAVING EARLY

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