


Reading: Excuses! Excuses!

1 Read this situation. What did the writer find strange, and why?

We arranged a 9 o'clock meeting with our Japanese supplier. He's usually very punctual, but at 9:30 there was still no sign of him. Then, just when we were getting ready to leave, we saw him running up the steps of the building. A minute later he rushed into the meeting room, very out of breath.

'Are you OK?' we asked. He said he was fine and apologized again and again. But it was strange because he never told us why he was late. Did he get lost, we wondered, or did he forget to set his alarm clock?

2  **2.23** Listen to the Japanese supplier's story. Why was he late and why did he not explain? Do you know anyone who would behave like this?

3 Read a different situation about someone else who was late. What is the writer annoyed about?

Darren was half an hour late for work today – again. He often has to stay out late entertaining clients, so it's hard for him to get to work on time. But the trouble is he makes up silly excuses. According to Darren, when things go wrong, it's never his fault. I can't remember what his excuse was today – something about leaving his mobile phone at home and going back for it, and then locking himself out of the house. He had a long detailed story. Darren reminds me of my ex-husband – he was a good storyteller, too.



4 Do you know any people like Darren? If so, in what ways are they similar? What is the worst excuse you have ever heard for someone being late? And what is the most original excuse?



Word focus: remember, forget and remind

5 One sentence in each group is wrong. Which one is it? read the notes and check your answers.

- 1
 - a He remembered to set his alarm clock.
 - b He forgot to set his alarm clock.
 - c He reminded to set his alarm clock.
- 2
 - a Darren forgot his mobile phone.
 - b Darren forgot his mobile phone at home.
 - c Darren left his mobile phone at home.

remind and forget

remind

Remind means 'make someone else remember something'. We remind other people. So after *remind* say 'who'.

She reminded everyone that they were running late.

Remind me to switch off my mobile phone when we go inside.

forget

In British English we use *leave* when we mention the place we forgot something.

He forgot his umbrella. = CORRECT

He forgot his umbrella in the taxi. = WRONG

He left his umbrella in the taxi. = CORRECT

6 Complete these sentences with the correct form of *remember*, *forget* or *remind*.

- 1 It's been a wonderful holiday. I'll _____ it for the rest of my life.
- 2 Can I _____ you that smoking is not allowed in this building?
- 3 We mustn't _____ to switch off the computers at night.
- 4 It's Pat's birthday so don't _____ to send her a card.
- 5 I'll be there. Thanks for _____ me.
- 6 A: 'I must pay you back the two dollars you lent me.'
B: 'Oh _____ it! It's not important.'