

Missing work: are you really ill? 不去上班：你是真病了吗？

Vocabulary: missing work 词汇：不上班

If you are **on sick leave** for **work-related stress** don't pick a fight with a shark on a popular beach. A **charity worker** from Wales learnt this lesson a few weeks ago. He **was sacked** after his **bosses** saw a video of him wrestling one of the dangerous sea creatures in Australia.

Paul Marshallsea grabbed the animal's tail as it swam towards children and dragged it to deeper water. He **made headlines** across the world and **was praised** by lifeguards. But not by his **managers** at the Pant and Dowlais Boys and Girls Club, who say that they don't trust him anymore.



Would you like your boss to find you here when you are on sick leave?

Mr Marshallsea might really have been ill, but some who ask permission to be **absent** from work are not. There is even an expression for that: '**throwing a sickie**'.

Claiming to have a **migraine** headache has become one of the most popular excuses for '**throwing a sickie**', a survey suggested a few years ago.

The YouGov poll of 2,105 people found 15% of workers who admitted to **making up** illness to get **a day off** used **migraine** as their excuse.

The month when **absenteeism** is most likely to happen is February, because some people feel a need **to recharge batteries** after the post-Christmas shock of having to go back to work.

But **job insecurity** brought about by the **economic downturn** might be discouraging employees from pretending to be sick.

In the UK, the Office of National Statistics says that the average worker now takes just 4.5 days off because of illness or injury, compared with 7.2 in 1993. A total of 131m work days were lost in 2011, down 6m on the year before.

Mr Marshallsea might be **upset** about becoming part of the unemployment **statistics** right now. But it could work to his benefit in the future. The bravery he showed to defuse a possible shark attack might make his CV shine. And even if he doesn't get a more **challenging** job as a result, at least he'll be cured of his stress.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Who approved of Mr Marshallsea's actions?
2. What did the charity worker's bosses say?
3. Look at the article. What excuse do people use most often when they don't want to go to work?
4. Is this statement true, false or not applicable? *People have been avoiding being absent from work because they are afraid of being sacked.*
5. What expression in the article means 'to become an important news story'?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My brother is a football fanatic. He is prepared to '_____ a sickie' to be able to go abroad and watch his favourite team play.

give	throw	be	get
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2. Mary hasn't been in the office for a while. She's got flu and is on _____ leave.

ill	injured	upset	sick
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3. Employees can be _____ if they are drunk on the job.

sacked	bagged	pocketed	praised
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4. What? Your father is a billionaire? I can't believe anything you say. You are always making _____ stories.

out	over	out	up
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5. I've been working so hard that my manager told me that today I could take the day _____.

off	over	up	in
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Who approved of Mr Marshallsea's actions? **The lifeguards.**
2. What did the charity worker's bosses say? **They said that they don't trust him anymore.**
3. Look at the article. What excuse do people use most often when they don't want to go to work? **They say they have a migraine.**
4. Is this statement true, false or not applicable? *People have been avoiding absences from work because they are afraid of being sacked.* **True.**
5. What expression in the article means 'to become an important news story'? **To make headlines.**

Exercise 练习

1. My brother is a football fanatic. He is prepared to **'throw** a sickie' to be able to go abroad and watch his favourite team play.
2. Mary hasn't been in the office for a while. She's got flu and is on **sick** leave.
3. Employees can be **sacked** if they are drunk on the job.
4. What? Your father is a billionaire? I can't believe anything you say. You are always making **up** stories.
5. I've been working so hard that my manager told me that today I could take the day **off**.

Glossary 词汇表

on sick leave	休病假
work-related stress	工作带来的压力
a charity worker	一名慈善工作者
to be sacked	被炒鱿鱼
the boss	老板
to make headlines	上新闻头条
to be praised	被夸奖
the manager	经理
absent	缺勤
to throw a sickie	谎称生病不上班
migraine	偏头痛
to make up	佯装
a day off	休息一天
absenteeism	缺勤现象
to recharge batteries (figurative)	充电（休息调节的形容方式）
job insecurity	担心工作不保
the economic downturn	经济衰退
upset	沮丧
the statistics	统计数字
challenging	有挑战性的