

## Invitations and Excuses

### Section 1: Open-ended Questions about Invitations and Excuses

1. **What's the most common reason you give when declining an invitation?**

1: "I often say I have a prior commitment if I can't attend an event."

2: "Usually, I mention that I'm not feeling well or I'm too tired."

*Follow-up Question:* How do you feel when you have to make an excuse?

2. **Where do you usually go when you accept an invitation?**

1: "I mostly go to friends' houses or local restaurants."

2: "I love attending events at parks or outdoor venues."

*Follow-up Question:* Do you prefer indoor or outdoor gatherings?

3. **Why do you think people often make excuses instead of declining directly?**

1: "I guess it's because they don't want to hurt the host's feelings."

2: "People might feel guilty or worry about missing out."

*Follow-up Question:* Is it better to be honest or to make a polite excuse?

4. **When was the last time you had to make an excuse for not attending an event?**

1: "Just last week, I said I had a headache and couldn't go to a birthday party." 2: "I made an excuse about work being too busy a month ago."

*Follow-up Question:* Did you regret not attending afterward?

5. **Who do you find it hardest to make excuses to?**

1: "Making excuses to close family members is the hardest for me."

2: "I struggle to make excuses to my boss or colleagues."

*Follow-up Question:* Why do you think it's harder to make excuses to them?

6. **How do you usually communicate your excuses? Through a call, text, or in person?**

1: "I typically send a text message; it feels less awkward."

2: "I prefer calling, as it seems more sincere."

*Follow-up Question:* Do you think the method of communication affects how your excuse is received?

7. **What kind of excuses do you think are acceptable?**

1: "Health issues or family emergencies are definitely acceptable."

2: "Work-related excuses are usually understandable."

*Follow-up Question:* Are there any excuses that you think are not acceptable?

8. **How often do you find yourself making excuses to avoid social events?**

1: "Quite rarely, maybe once every few months."

2: "Honestly, quite often, especially if I'm feeling overwhelmed."

*Follow-up Question:* Does making excuses frequently affect your social relationships?

9. **How much notice do you think is appropriate when giving an excuse for an invitation?**

1: "At least a day before the event is considerate."

2: "I think as soon as you know you can't make it, you should inform the host." *Follow-up Question:* What would you do if you had to make an excuse at the last minute?

10. Who in your life is most understanding when you make excuses?

1: "My best friend is always very understanding about it."

2: "My siblings, they usually get it without any questions."

*Follow-up Question:* How does their understanding affect your relationship?

**Section 2: Yes/No Questions**

1. Have you ever felt relieved after making an excuse to avoid an invitation?

*Yes Response:* "Yes, I've felt relieved, especially when I'm not in the mood for socializing."

*No Response:* "No, I usually feel a bit guilty about it."

*Follow-up Question:* What makes you feel relieved or guilty?

2. Do you believe that some people are too quick to make excuses?

*Yes Response:* "Yes, some seem to have an excuse ready for every occasion."

*No Response:* "No, I think most excuses are made for valid reasons."

*Follow-up Question:* What impact does this have on your perception of them?

3. Have you ever regretted accepting an invitation instead of making an excuse?

*Yes Response:* "Yes, I've attended events and wished I had stayed home."

*No Response:* "No, I usually enjoy myself once I get there."

*Follow-up Question:* What makes you regret attending?

4. Is it easy for you to identify when someone is making a false excuse?

*Yes Response:* "Yes, I can usually tell by their tone or choice of words."

*No Response:* "No, I tend to take people at their word."

*Follow-up Question:* How do you respond when you suspect an excuse is false?

5. Would you prefer a friend to be honest rather than make an excuse?

*Yes Response:* "Yes, honesty is always the best policy for me."

*No Response:* "No, I understand that sometimes an excuse is kinder."

*Follow-up Question:* How does honesty or the lack of it affect your friendship?

**Section 3: Example Report**

I interviewed Maria about her experiences with invitations and excuses. Maria shared that she often makes excuses due to feeling tired, preferring to communicate through text. She believes that being honest can sometimes be harsh and that polite excuses are more considerate. Maria admitted to feeling relieved when she can avoid social events, especially when overwhelmed. She appreciates her best friend's understanding when she makes excuses, stating that it strengthens their bond. Maria values balance in social commitments and personal comfort.

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