

[BUSINESS ★] ALMOST 30% OF EMPLOYEES FAKE AN ILLNESS AND SKIP WORK

(P1) When your employees **call in** sick, there's a good chance they aren't really **under the weather** at all, new research finds.

(P2) Nearly 30% of workers surveyed said they have called in to work sick when they were feeling just fine, according to a study from **CareerBuilder**.

(P3) The most popular reason for **faking** a sick day? Just not wanting to **head in** to work. **Specifically**, 30% of those who have **skipped** work when they were not sick said they did so simply because they didn't feel like going to work that day. The research also found that 29% said they wanted the day to **relax**, and 19% wanted to **catch up on** some sleep. For 11%, **bad weather** was a good enough reason to call in sick.

(P4) The study found that many employees are **making up fake excuses** even when it's not required. Although nearly half of the workers surveyed said they have paid time off that they can use any way they like, 23% still feel **obligated** to make up an excuse for taking a day off.

(P5) But many organizations aren't just taking employees' word for it: More than 30% of managers check to see if their employees are telling the truth. The most popular ways of doing so include asking for a doctor's note and calling the employee, the study found.

(P6) However, some businesses take things a bit further. The research showed that 15% of employers have driven past a "sick" employee's house to make sure he or she was really home. 15% of employers have driven past a "sick" employee's house to make sure he or she was really home.

(P7) Faking sick days can have significant consequences: Nearly 20% of employers have **fired** an employee for calling in sick with a fake excuse.

(P8) Some employees end up **outing** themselves online. One-quarter of the employers surveyed have caught an employee lying about being sick by checking their social media accounts. Of those, 22% have actually fired the employee, but 54% were more **forgiving** and only **reprimanded** the employee for the lie.

(P9) Overall, employees in professional and business services and sales called in sick most often in the past year. **On the flip side**, employees in the IT, retail, and leisure and hospitality industries were least likely to call in sick.

(P10) The study was based on surveys of 2,203 hiring managers and human resources professionals, and 3,103 United States workers.

Words: 400

Source: <http://mashable.com/2014/10/29/employees-fake-sick/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you found the passage difficult to read or had problems understanding specific words or idiomatic expressions, please discuss them with your tutor. The following discussion questions should be answered in your own words and with your own arguments.

1. Briefly summarize the content of the article in your own words.
2. What is the most popular reason for faking a sick day according to the article (P3)?
3. Why are the employees making up fake excuses even when it's not required (P4)? And how to employers take the fake excuses (P5-8)?
4. Why do you think employees in some industries call in sick more than other (P9)?
5. In your country, can you take paid leave without feeling obligated to make up an excuse to take a day off? If you were the employer, what changes would you make to your company's policy for paid leave after seeing the statistics?

WHAT / WHO / WHERE ARE THEY?

CareerBuilder

(Company) the largest online employment website in the United States, with more than 24 million unique visitors each month and a 34% market share of help-wanted web sites in the United States. CareerBuilder.com provides labor market intelligence, talent management software, and other recruitment solutions, including online career search services for more than 1,900 partners as of March 2008, including 140 newspapers and portals such as AOL and MSN.

VOCABULARY

Call in	(v) (특히 직장에) 전화를 하다
Under the weather	(expression) 몸이 좀 안 좋은
Fake	(adj) 가짜의, 거짓된
Head in	(v) to move into something head or front end first. Head into that parking space slowly. It is quite narrow. I turned the boat toward shore and headed in.
Specifically	(adv) 구체적으로 말하면
Skip	(v) (일을) 거르다
Relax	(v) (즐기는 일을 하면서) 휴식을 취하다
Catch up on	(expression) (뒤떨어진 일을) 만회하다
Bad weather	(expression) 나쁜 날씨 (비, 눈이 오는 날씨)
Make up excuses	(expression) 변명하다, 변명을 만들어내다
Obligate	(v) (법률·도덕상의) 의무를 지우다; 강요하다
Fire	(v) 해고하다
Outing	(n) (보통 단체가 당일로 하는) 여행, 야유회; 본문에서는 땡땡이치는 사원을 잡으려고 회사 밖으로 나가는 것을 의미
Forgiving	(adj) 너그러운
Reprimand	(v) 질책하다
On the flip side	(expression) on the other hand, conversely