

The Office - You Missed The Deadline! (C0116)

- A: And so, I just wanted to check in with you and find out where we are with this project. As you know, you've missed a fairly significant deadline last week, and this will negatively impact the team's ability to move forward with the next stages of this project.
- B: I know, I'm really sorry that I missed the deadline. But really, it wasn't my fault. You see, we had all of these unexpected technical problems at the last minute, and that I couldn't get into the database and extract the kind of information that I needed for the data analysis. You know, if the tech guys would have done their job and kept the CRM stable, then I wouldn't have missed my deadline.
- A: Oh, come on! An excuse like that is tantamount to lying. You're essentially blaming the tech team for your time management issues, rather than accepting responsibility for the fact that you were procrastinating for the past two weeks.

B: No, I'm not trying to pass the buck here; I know that it was me who is ultimately responsible for getting this done. But the thing is, I could have finished on time if the system hadn't gone down. And you know, with everything I've got going on now, I can't afford to waste time dealing with technical problems. I've got a lot on my plate and there are only twenty-four hours in a day...

A: I'm not going to accept this excuse. You're using these small technical glitches as a crutch and trying to rationalize the fact that you've missed your deadline. Look, we have standards and I expect you to live up to those standards. No more phoney excuses. If you're in over your head, you tell me. No more missed deadlines. Now, I want that data on my desk by nine am!

Key Vocabulary

tantamount	<i>Adjective</i>	same as, equivalent to
fairly significant	<i>phrase</i>	very important or very relevant
essentially	<i>General Adverb</i>	in essence, basically

as a crutch	<i>phrase</i>	used to indicate you justify failure with excuses
rationalize	<i>verb</i>	to explain bad behavior in a way that (falsely) makes it seem proper or better
impact	<i>verb</i>	to have an effect on something
move forward	<i>phrase</i>	continue, go on
unexpected	<i>Adjective</i>	coming without warning
last minute	<i>phrase</i>	at the last moment
procrastinate	<i>verb</i>	leave tasks or duties for a later time
pass the buck	<i>phrase</i>	blame someone else, pass on the responsibility
ultimately	<i>General Adverb</i>	at last; in the end; eventually.

on my plate	<i>phrase</i>	another way of saying I have many things to do
phoney	<i>Adjective</i>	not true, fake or false
in over your head	<i>phrase</i>	too much to handle

Supplementary Vocabulary

behind schedule	<i>phrase</i>	later than expected
procrastination	<i>common noun, non-variable</i>	the action of delaying one's work
fabricate	<i>verb</i>	to create an untrue story
justify	<i>verb</i>	to give the reasons why you did something wrong
tardiness	<i>common noun, non-variable</i>	the quality of being late often