

# THE COWBOY EXCUSE BOOK

*A compendium of the  
Various and Nefarious  
Excuses, Dodges and  
Reasons employed by  
Cowboy Action Shooters when asked  
(and sometimes when not asked)  
“What Happened”?*

*Compiled (but certainly  
not created in its entirety)  
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**Forward** (aka Editor's snarky comments):

This book is presented for the amusement of the readers. Any resemblance to any excuse, living, dead or resurrected from the grave, is strictly coincidental.

Use of any of the included excuses is permitted (and in fact encouraged – if you think you can get away with it).

No statistical analysis or comparison with actual excuses, reasons, whining, verbal sparring, dodging, whimpering, etc. has been prepared. So don't ask.

The excuses are presented in the order I chose. So there.

Its rude to correct grammar in public – so don't.

If you don't like the book or its contents, write your own.

If you feel personally slighted by this book – count to ten. It wasn't aimed at you...**Really**. If you are mentioned by name herein, feel honored, its not everyone who was after all.

Excuse No. 1:

“I didn’t understand the Stage instructions.”

Normally employed by those who weren’t listening in the first place.

Excuse No. 2:

“Bad Primer”

That’s it, blame the manufacturer (unless that’s you, in which case why were you using those silly hard primers in the first place?).

Excuse No. 3:

“It’s a borrowed gun”

Then you should be talking to the person who’s gun it is.

Excuse No. 4:

“My [*insert appropriate body part*] gave out on me”

Bad knees, bum leg, bad back, etc. Age happens. Believe me, I know.

Excuse No. 5:

“Guns are getting dirty”

This is more commonly heard from the Dark Side folks, but by no means is it exclusive. Go clean your guns after the match.

Excuse No. 6:

“I was hurrying too much”

There are those who assert that this is actually a good thing as it will increase your speed in the long run. Still, it’s a bummer if it ruins your Clean Match (which it has for me).

Excuse No. 7:

“The stage prop picked my pocket”

Seriously. This actually happened to Solicitor General. I could not hope to come up with this on my own.

Excuse No. 8:

“The Sun was in my eyes”

Most often used when the sun is in fact either not visible (behind clouds or other obscurement) or over the Shooter’s left shoulder.

Excuse No. 9:

“The target moved.”

Really. Although this is a poorer excuse when the target *really does/did move*.

Excuse No. 10:

“My friend \_\_\_\_\_ loaded my ammo”

A variation of Excuse No. 2, usually used when the “friend” is not present.

Excuse No. 11:

“My feet hurt”

A favorite of Professor Cubby Bear. A slight variation of Excuse No. 4.

Excuse No. 12:

“The Grandkids messed with my ammo.”

Usable by persons of all ages.

Excuse No. 13:

“(+&J@#\*&#IU!!!)”

That’s not really an excuse. But some people use it as one.

Excuse No. 14:

“Its Tex’s fault!”

Why not? He gets blamed for everything else.

Excuse No. 15:

“Oh, the front sight...”

Yup, the one at the far end of the gun....unless you are really doing it wrong.

Excuse No. 16:

“I forgot.”

Remember what I said about age....you *do* remember don’t you....?

Excuse No. 17:

“I’m sure that was NOT mentioned in the explanation I heard”

A valid one. I’ve even used this (when it was appropriate even).

Excuse No. 18:

“Well, actually I was too hung over to be alive, let alone shoot.”

This speaks (probably far too loudly) for itself.

Excuse No. 19:

“I changed loads at the last minute.”

...and you did this why?

Excuse No. 20:

“Wait, I’m thinking of one [excuse]”

And you don’t have a pre-prepared one handy?! That’s what this book is all about!

Excuse No. 21:

“Well, he didn’t read it [the stage instructions] right.”

This one only works if he really *didn’t* read it right. And why didn’t you read them for yourself?

Excuse No. 22:

“The Target drew on me before the buzzer went off.”

Now I’ve seen targets that move, but targets that draw on you? Now that’s harsh. That might disrupt my shooting too.

*<Suggested by Boneyard Ranger>*

Excuse No. 23:

“Spurs are too tight.”

You can take it from here by yourself. This one needs no real imagination to run with....

*<Suggested by Glenn Canyon>*

Excuse No. 24:

“The prop made a hostile move....”

.....so it got shot. This is less productive than it sounds. I know.

Excuse No. 25:

“I got those two off so fast you didn't hear the second hit.”

If you are Lead Dispenser, you might get away with that one....maybe. The rest of us mere human beings probably don't.

*<Suggested by Big Bear Johnson>*

Excuse No. 26:

“The stage is badly written.”

Some are, some are not. I write them, I know. But sometimes the bad guys don't stand around in the street looking obvious either.

Excuse No. 27:

“Black powder.....I didn't know it would smoke that much.”

Just you wait until nice a nice moist day with no wind.

*<Suggested by Quartz Davis>*

Excuse No. 28:

“This is the first time I've shot at this range.”

This one works once. Unless you are ratted out about having been there before.

Excuse No. 29:

“Well, I picked that round up off the ground. I don’t know where it came from.”

Really. I actually heard this one. I could not hope to make this one up on my own.

Excuse No. 30:

“I haven’t had my morning coffee yet.”

Well, if I was a coffee addict, like most of you, that might by you some sympathy. Go, get your coffee in you and we’ll move on to the next stage.....

*<Suggested by Snowshoe Monty>*

Excuse No. 99:

“It was the Black Powder Gremlins”

They exist. Just ask any Black Powder shooter.