

For the latest  
news on  
international  
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# TESTING TIMES

A SPECIAL BORIS JOHNSON RESIGNATION EDITION


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## The Boris Johnson Taxonomy of Failure Excuses

The performance and behaviour of the soon-to-be ex-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in various testing situations are often connected to the British porcine community, whether it be the constant use of 'porkies' in references to the European Union, or his completely farmyard-style PEGGA PIG speech to the Confederation of British Industry in 2021. Even his political colleagues from the Tory party have been known to describe him as a 'greased piglet' in view of his life-long talent for escaping even the most comprehensive defeats and compromising scandals.

Frequently, this was due to his incredible skills in providing excuses that enabled him to avoid having to admit failure. Such excuses have now been thoroughly researched, and academic sources have discovered the wide range of pretexts, 'get out of jail free' cards or simple deviations from truthfulness that the least distinguished resident of No. 10 Downing Street ever has relied on over the years.

We at *TESTING TIMES* are privileged to present this first exclusive excerpt from the study as a resource for students who need to explain why they didn't make the grade.



"I was unaware  
that I was in a test  
event."

"I was following a  
low syntax policy."

"I had a 'colossal  
success' in my national  
placement test in  
December 2019."

"The test gathering was  
obviously under the  
control of EU grammar  
Remainers."

"I got all the definite  
articles correct, apart  
from Article 16 in the  
N.I. Protocol, which is  
turning out to be far  
more indefinite."

"I may have got a few  
morphemes wrong, but  
I got the big gender  
calls (Petronella, Anna,  
Helen, Jennifer) right!"

"I was ambushed by a  
test item that seemed  
to me to be 'a piece of  
cake'!"

"I am wont to use  
post-modifiers to  
make all my T/F  
answers flexible."





**"I GOT THE  
TEST DONE!!"**

**"I sometimes get  
complex clauses  
wrong, especially in  
EU treaties."**

**"I have a mandate to  
break the rules and pass  
any test ..."**


**"... and a large number  
of womandates where I  
make successful passes  
and achieve a high  
score rate."**

**"I will have to withdraw  
such test gatherings from  
the jurisdiction of TESOL,  
ALTE and IATEFL!!!"**

**"I actually thought  
BYOB meant 'Bring  
Your Own Boo-Boos'!"**

**"My intention was  
actually to achieve "net  
zero" in keeping with  
COP-Out 26 in  
Glasgow."**

**"The test gathering  
feedback session  
included too many  
accusatives."**



"I exploit the pragmatic competence of incoherence to avoid explicit truths, i.e. stammer not Starmer".

I specialise in linguistic creativity, such as being a footstool, thrust and throttle, in the interests of precision, and getting e.g. (Jennifer) Arcuricy."

"My proficiency in BREXIT English constantly produces top ratings in such high-class influential journals as "THE SUN", "THE DAILY EXPRESS" and "THE DAILY MAIL".

"Nobody told me it was not permitted to give approximate answers based on slight mendacity and lacking full veracity."

"The test curriculum manifesto failed to allow for my own personal vernacular and didn't include EFL words (*ed. English as a Foul Language*) such as 'F\*\*\* business'."

"There were too many (Sue) Gray areas in the examiner's report."

"I have revolutionised the English lexicon giving new meanings to words such as 'integrity', 'leadership', 'transparency', 'selflessness' and 'accountability'."

"The items were based on deviant EU-based language forms which will be expelled and removed to Rwanda."





"I was humbled by a multiple-choice task that required progressive tense forms rather than vague Tory language."

"I allowed many solutions to be corrupted and masked by relatives and other public-school cohorts."


"Thanks to BREXIT I will still be able to sign deals that will reduce test event standards in the interest of (self) face-saving."

"In the words of an old-fashioned, old-school-tie, dust-covered, obsolescent, behind-the-times, old-fogeyish, archaic, bygone-age, olde-worlde, past his sell-by date fellow-Tory and Cabinet Minister: the errors were just 'fluff' and 'fundamentally trivial'."

"I will introduce a 'green lane' at all my test event access points to ensure for myself hassle-free solutions to all my borderline test answers."

"All my gender-based faux pas in paired-format test gatherings were apparently misunderstood by the Liaison Committee."

"I will initiate a self-placement test in the form of my own no-confidence vote to self-prove my incompetence and lack of proficiency."



"My 'rogue English' is a good basis for enabling me to prorogue test venues in my own self-serving interest (i.e. pro rogue)."

"The rater obviously couldn't read my handwriting and thought I had an unclear instead of a nuclear policy."

"My oral proficiency assessor left the test gathering far too early claiming there was too much hot air."

"Without my habitual and innovative test event and test gathering behaviour the English language would be bereft of neologisms such as 'partygate', 'wallpapergate', 'treehouse at Chequers-gate' and 'Pinchergropegate'."

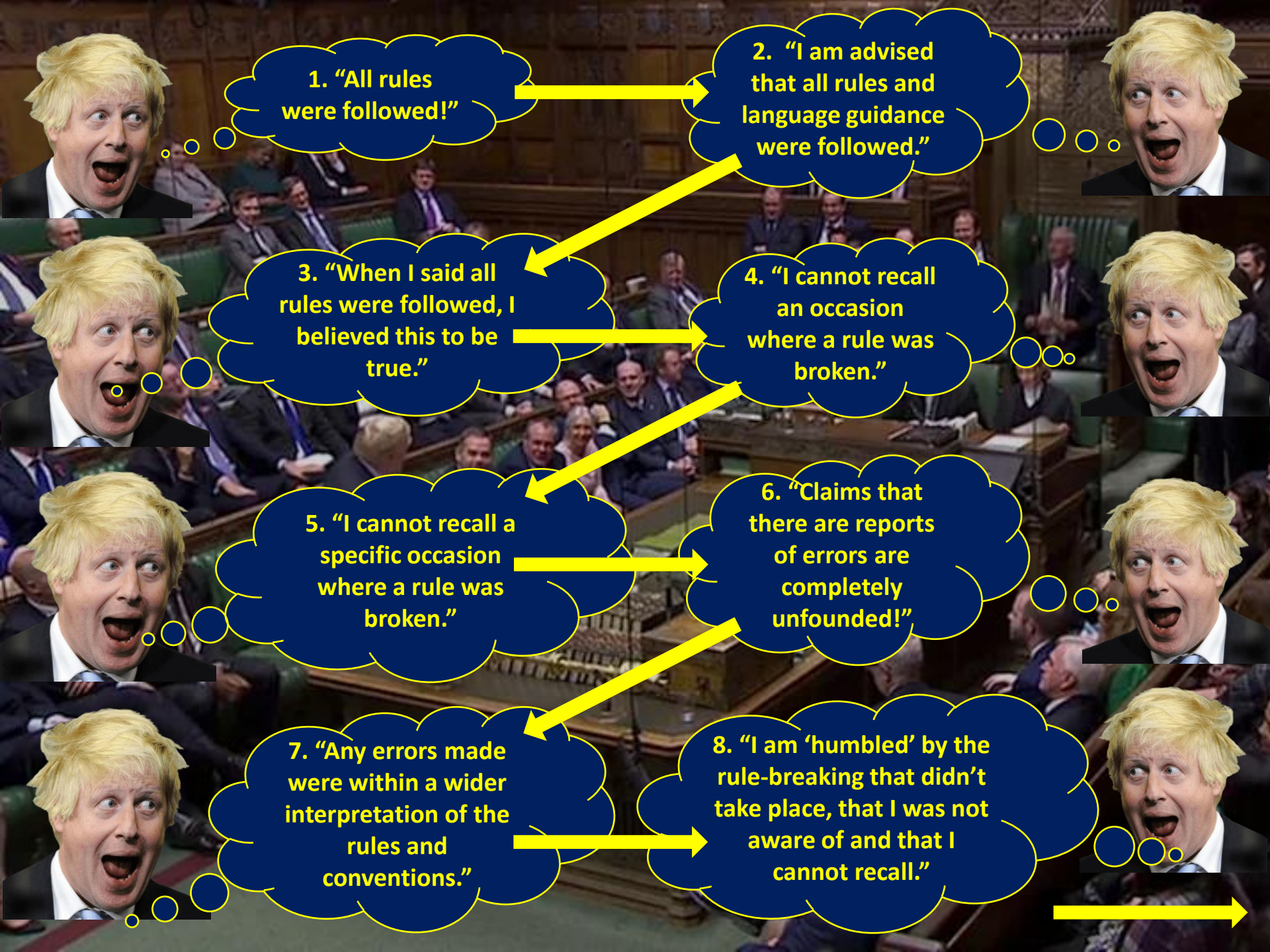
"In testing situations the phrase 'levelling up' the country is used to deflect attention from "levelling with" the country."

"Never mind my 18 million test critics. My assessors should focus on the 14 million positive raters."

"The opinions of the general public feedback reports are simply part of 'Project Fear'."

"The 'will of the people' is far more significant than the 'won'ts' and 'don'ts' of honest, up-standing test ethics advisors."





1. "All rules were followed!"

2. "I am advised that all rules and language guidance were followed."

3. "When I said all rules were followed, I believed this to be true."

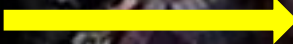
4. "I cannot recall an occasion where a rule was broken."

5. "I cannot recall a specific occasion where a rule was broken."

6. "Claims that there are reports of errors are completely unfounded!"

7. "Any errors made were within a wider interpretation of the rules and conventions."


8. "I am 'humbled' by the rule-breaking that didn't take place, that I was not aware of and that I cannot recall."





9. "The British public is not interested in such minor peccadillos! What does interest them is the fact that I have (vaguely) promised and (claim to have) delivered 40 new hospitals, an extra £350,000,000 EU funding spent on the NHS, the abolition of border controls between GB and NI, the fastest growth in the G7, cuts in the basic rate of income tax, a Northern Powerhouse high-speed rail link between London, Leeds and Manchester, affordable housing with 300,000 new houses per year, 20,000 new police officers, 50,000 nurses and 6000 more GPs, the commitment to spend 0.7% of GDI on international development, the protection of the fishing industry, the preservation of workers' rights, the maintenance of food standards in all post-Brexit trade deals, the ban on all pesticides affecting bees and other vital insects, to protect the interests of farmers in all trade deals, and the avoidance of any legislation that would lead to privatization of the NHS, (sotto voce) At least I hope most voters will believe all these alleged achievements, which I have announced time and time again over the last two years without providing a shred of evidence!"





**We can be absolutely certain that the select few (approx. 180,000 members of the Conservative party = 0.3% of the UK population), who will be invited to choose the next Prime Minister to succeed Boris Johnson, will reflect the interests and needs of the country as a whole, since they are<sup>(x)</sup>:**

**63% male and 37% female,**

**39% over 65 and 6% under 24,**

**76% Leavers and 27% Remainers,**

**56% resident in London and the South-East,**

**with 80% of them in the top socio-economic groups ABC,**

**can't we????**

**<sup>(x)</sup>Source: [www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62138041](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62138041)**



**Hope you enjoyed this  
Special Edition of  
TESTING TIMES!**

*Geoff*