

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and tips and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the functions (a–h) with the phrases (1–8).

Phrases

1. I can't make it.
2. Shout if you need anything.
3. Thx.
4. Poor you!
5. If you don't mind, can you ... ?
6. No problem!
7. Feeling any better?
8. Get well soon. / Hope you feel better soon.

Functions

- a. showing sympathy
- b. cancelling a plan
- c. offering help
- d. saying thank you
- e. checking how someone feels now
- f. asking for help
- g. ending the conversation when someone is ill
- h. agreeing to do something



Reading text: Messaging to cancel a plan

Yesterday 18:45

Hey, I don't think I can make it tomorrow. I'm feeling really ill

Oh no, poor you!

Have you been to the doctor?

No, I think it's just a cold

Well, get well soon

Shout if you need anything!

Thx, I will

Today 9:03

Feeling any better?

A bit thanks but staying in bed today I think!

I can pop round on my way home if you need anything?

Actually, if you don't mind, pls can you get me some green tea?

No problem!

See you about 6 then

Thx so much!!

Get plenty of rest! [See you about 6 then](#) [MORE PRACTICE](#)

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

1. The ill person asks to meet at a different time.
2. The doctor said it was a cold.
3. The ill person doesn't need anything on the first day.
4. The ill person feels worse on the second day.
5. The ill person is planning to get a lot of rest.
6. The two people know each other quite well.

Answer

True	False

Task 2

Circle the best way to respond.

1. I don't think I can make it to the dinner tonight. I'm not feeling well.
 - a. Fine.
 - b. Oh no! Poor you!
 - c. Feeling any better?
2. Call me if you need anything!
 - a. I think so.
 - b. Yes, please.
 - c. Thanks, I will.
3. Feeling any better today?
 - a. A bit, thanks.
 - b. That's right.
 - c. Thanks so much.
4. If you have time, could you get me some chicken soup from the supermarket?
 - a. I could.
 - b. No problem!
 - c. Thanks, I'd love to!
5. I'll bring you the soup around 7 p.m. See you then.
 - a. Bye.
 - b. Yes.
 - c. Thanks so much!!

Task 3

Match the end of the sentence (a–h) with the beginning (1–8).

Beginning

1. I don't think I can
2. Oh no,
3. Shout if you
4. If you don't mind, pls can you
5. I can pop round if you
6. Get plenty
7. Hope you
8. Get

End

- a. poor you!
- b. make it tomorrow.
- c. get me some orange juice?
- d. of rest!
- e. need anything?
- f. need anything!
- g. well soon!
- h. feel better soon!



Discussion

When was the last time you cancelled a plan? Why did you cancel?

Tips

1. You don't have to write complete sentences in text messages.
2. You can use short forms, e.g. *thx* (thanks) and *pls* (please).
3. To cancel a plan, say *I don't think I can make it*. Add the date (e.g. *I don't think I can make it tomorrow*) and/or to + the activity (e.g. *I don't think I can make it to the party tomorrow*).
4. To show sympathy, say *Poor you* and *Hope you feel better soon*.
5. Exclamation marks (!) sound positive and they are used a lot in text messages. Two exclamation marks (!!) shows you really, really mean it!