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! Hope you feel better soon

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 1
Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The ill person asks to meet at a different time.	True	False
2. The doctor said it was a cold.	True	False
3. The ill person doesn't need anything on the first day.	True	False
4. The ill person feels worse on the second day.	True	False
5. The ill person is planning to get a lot of rest.	True	False
6. The two people know each other quite well.	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	End
1. ..... I don't think I can	a. poor you!
2. ..... Oh no,	b. make it tomorrow.
3. ..... Shout if you	c. get me some orange juice?
4. ..... If you don't mind, pls can you	d. of rest!
5. ..... I can pop round if you	e. need anything?
6. ..... Get plenty	f. need anything!
7. ..... Hope you	g. well soon!
8. ..... Get	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!

LIVEWORKSHEETS