

## Messaging to cancel a plan

Learn how to write text messages to cancel plans.

### 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!

## 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!

## Tasks

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

|   | <b>Answer</b> |       |
|---|---------------|-------|
| 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**

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?

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. a
5. f
6. h
7. e
8. g

### Task 1

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True

### Task 2

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. c

### Task 3

1. b
2. a
3. f
4. c
5. e
6. d
7. h
8. g