

Should Ben Be at Work?



Pre-reading

Questions:

- When have you gone to work sick? What happened?

Definitions:

- Prepare – to get ready for something
- Order – a serving of food in cafe or restaurant
- Waiter – a man who takes your food order
- Spread – to send in many directions
- Germ – an organism that causes sickness
- Rest – to sleep or be still

Reading

17 Ben is working as a cook in a cafe. As he prepares a lunch order, he coughs
and sneezes. He has a bad cold. He came to work sick.

29 Steve, a waiter, comes to pick up the order. He says, “Ben, you’re sick. You
44 should go home. You’re spreading germs everywhere, even on people’s food. Now
56 more people will get sick.”

61 “I don’t feel good, but I want to work. I have bills to pay. I need to work,”
79 says Ben.

81 “Yes, I understand why you came to work,” says Steve, “but this is a time to
97 stay home. Come back to work when you feel better.”

107 “OK. I’ll go home and rest,” says Ben. “I’ll let Sam, the head cook, know
122 that I’m leaving.”

125

Understanding

1. What is Ben's job? _____

2. What illness does Ben have? _____

3. Who thinks Ben should go home? Why? _____

4. Why did Ben come to work sick? _____

5. What will Ben do at home? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: How do you decide to stay home from work when you are sick?
