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

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.

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

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

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

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

Level 1.0
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?
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________