



HOW TO CALL IN SICK

an interactive story game by
chay

How To Call In Sick

‘How to Call in Sick’ is an interactive story-choice game designed to simulate you, the employee, messaging your manager to let them know you will not be able to come in today, due to being sick. In this case, you have suffered a server anxiety attack and suicidal ideation, and so, going to your 13-dollar-an-hour job at McDonald’s, doesn’t seem like the mentally healthy thing to do today.

what do you do?

**tell her
about
your
crippling
anxiety**

**keep it
short
because
you
don't
owe her
shit**

YOU:

again, mentally my anxiety is just very bad today.

MANAGER

it's just...

manager is typing.....

PATHWAY 1

In this one, you are honest, adapting your usual people-pleaser and apologetic demeanour towards your own mental illness and the fact that you cannot work despite having a very valid reason to not.

PATHWAY 2

you admit you are taking a sick day without letting your manager know why. The manager gets more and more frustrated with your lack of 'honestly' and calls you out on the fact you aren't physically sick.fired.

PATHWAY 3

you decide the only way to save your job is to actually put yourself in the hospital. If you are willing to do that, maybe you are 'sicker' than you thought.



flaws in modern workplaces

Work has become the most important thing in our lives because your livelihoods are entirely dependant on us earning an income

Workers are forced to make this unhealthy and toxic ultimatum, because the only other choice is to lose their job, sacrificing income, housing, food, education

capitalistic-like life-revolves-around-work is deeply flawed. I want to highlight its absurdity, its inequality, and inhumane-nature, urging the players to rethink how they view their own work-balance and that is affect their own sanity.

YOU:

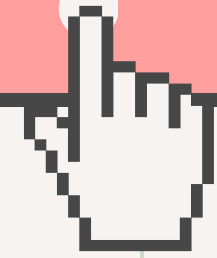
hey, manager. i hope you're well. just wanted to let you know that i won't be able to come in for my shift today. I'm sick.

MANAGER

sick? that's it. i'm going to need a little more than that.

um wtf

OPENING



you're a mess. you're anxious. it's 7:33 o'clock in the morning and you need to be at work in an hour and a half.

twenty-minutes ago, you had a panic attack so debilitating you thought about killing yourself. you should probably call in sick for work.

but

you're manager's a cunt.

what do you do?

**tell her
about
your
crippling
anxiety**

**keep it
short
because
you
don't
owe her
shit**

**make up
some
other
elaborate
medical
issue**

**go to
work**



PATHWAY 2 EXCERPT

YOU:

hey, manager. i hope you're well. just wanted to let you know that i won't be able to come in for my shift today. I'm sick.

MANAGER

sick? that's it. i'm going to need a little more than that.

YOU:

you don't actually. i'm casual. this is mcdonald's. me letting you know that I am sick is enough.

MANAGER

the fact that you are refusing to tell me just makes me think you are lying.

tell manager to fuck off, profesionally



MANAGER

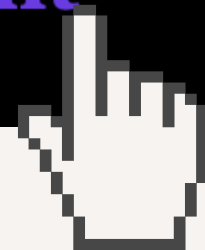
anxiety isn't a very good excuse to call in sick. i've had stressful morning, but i've always still come to work. this is very irresponsible on your part.

MANAGER

sick days are for when you are ill and therefore cannot come into work.

what a cunt

APOLOGIES!!!





OBJECTIVE: call in sick for work

STATUS: **FAILED**

start your day again



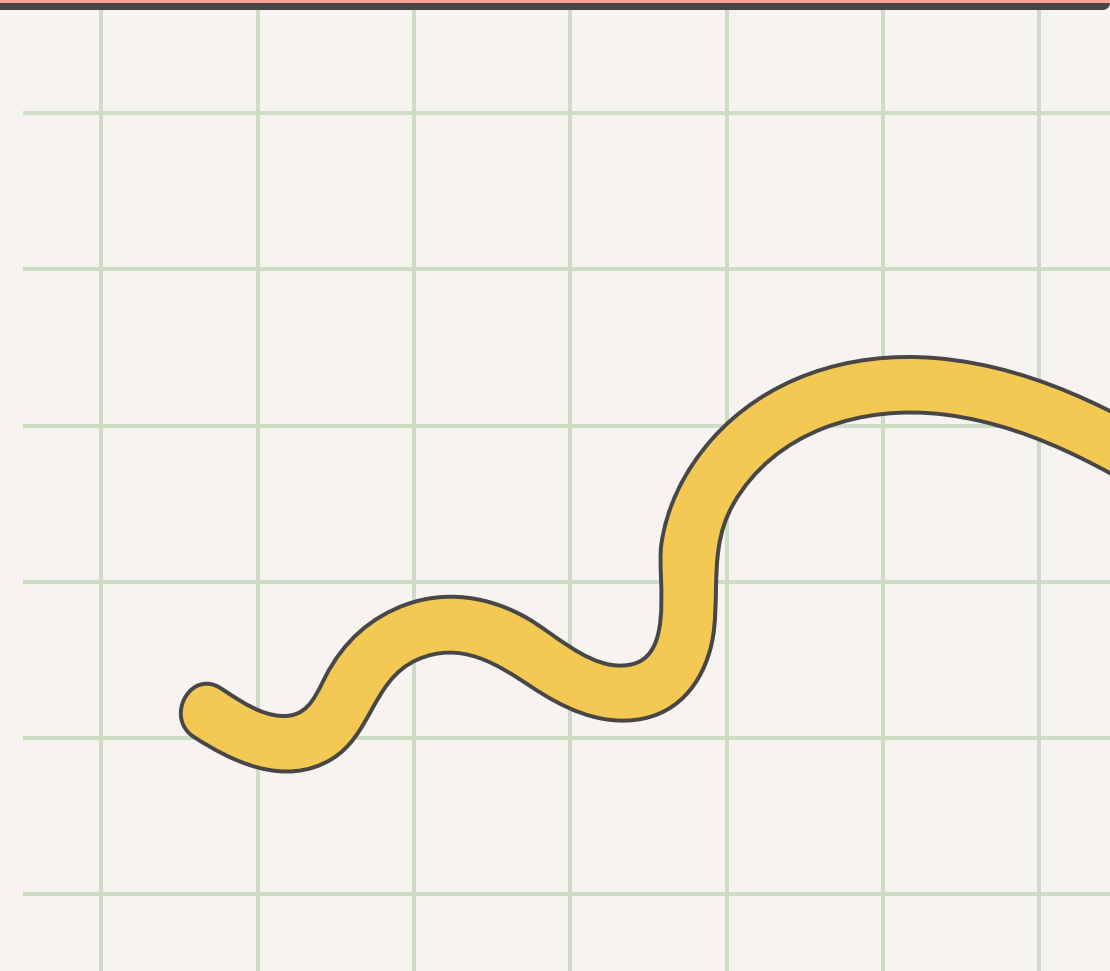


OBJECTIVE: call in sick for work

STATUS: **PASS**

you have to find a new job though :(





**LINK TO
PROTOTYPE**

