

SMOOTH RIDE

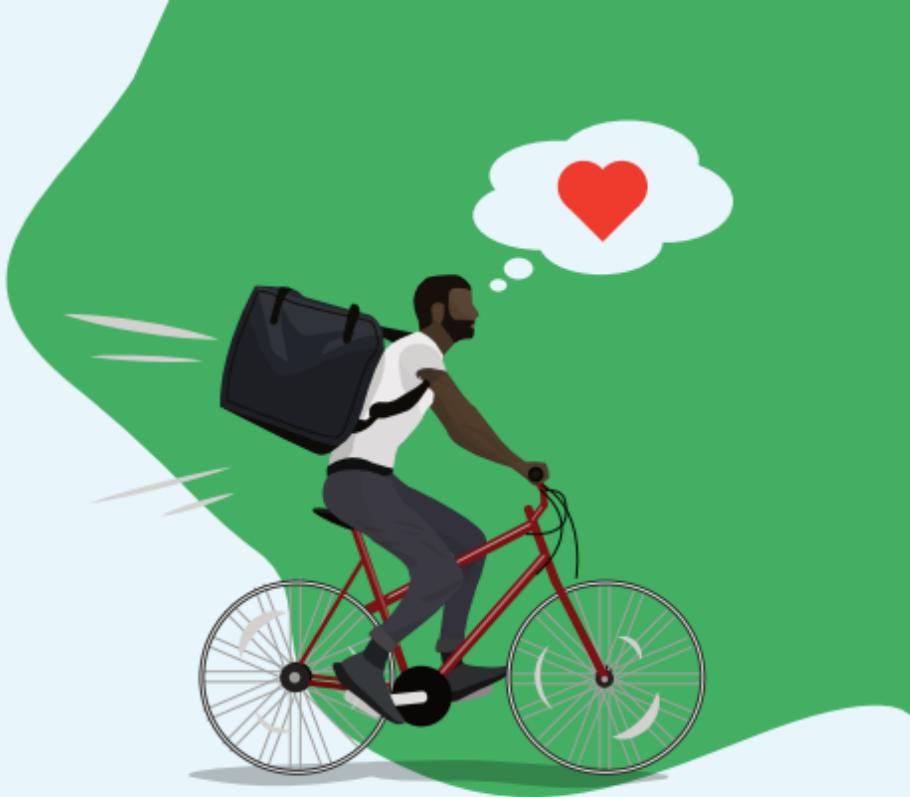
NO EFFECT

MOST JOBS ARE LIKE THIS...
SMOOTH, QUICK, AND EASY



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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SMOOTH RIDE

NO EFFECT

**CUSTOMER IS READY AT THE DOOR
NO WAITING AROUND**



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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SMOOTH RIDE

NO EFFECT

RESTAURANT HAS THE FOOD READY ON TIME
NO NEED TO HANG ABOUT



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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SMOOTH RIDE

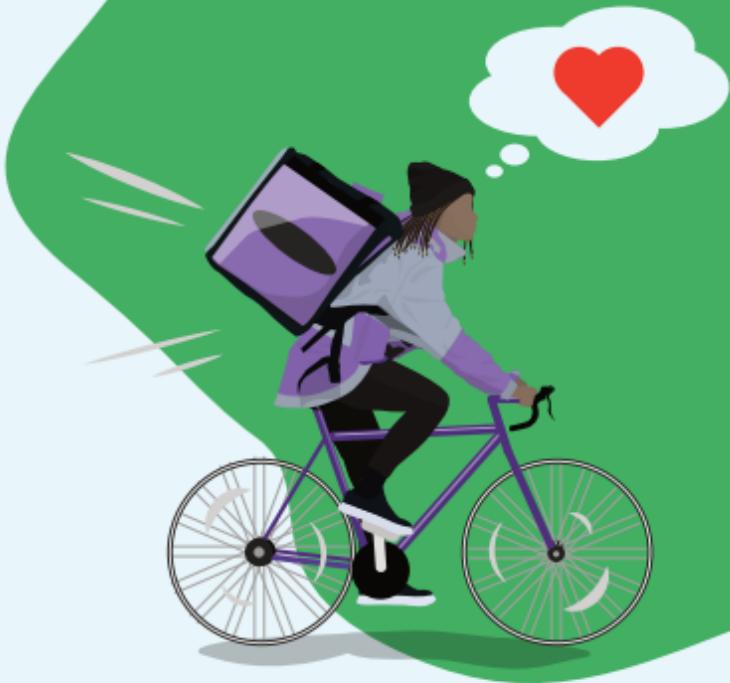
NO EFFECT

A GREAT NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR DELIVERIES
DOWNHILL, NOT TOO FAR



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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SMOOTH RIDE

NO EFFECT

A DECENT CYCLE LANE HERE
INFRASTRUCTURE HELPS, WHERE IT EXISTS!



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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SMOOTH RIDE

NO EFFECT

FEELING GOOD, ENJOYING MY WORK
IT IS FUN TO BE OUT RIDING MY BIKE!



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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CREepy CUSTOMER

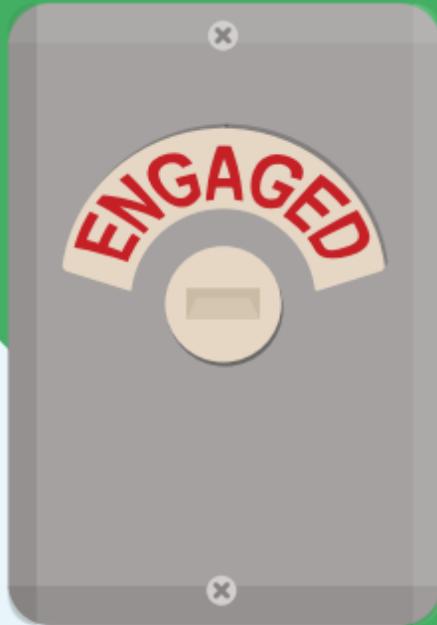
NO EFFECT. THIS TIME.

WHO CAN I CALL IF THINGS GO WRONG?
I'LL JUST TRY AVOID THIS AREA



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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RESTAURANT TOILET

NO EFFECT

THIS RESTAURANT LETS US USE THE LOO
WHAT A RELIEF!



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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SHORTCUT

DRAW A ⚡ CARD

THE APP DOES NOT KNOW THE AREA LIKE ME
I CAN GET THROUGH THIS PARK AND SAVE TIME



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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FREE COFFEE!

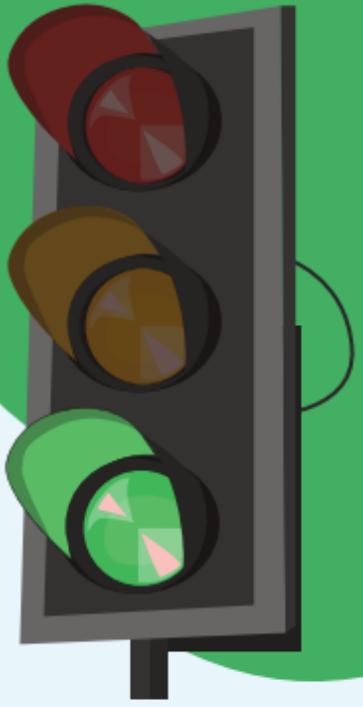
DRAW A ⚡ CARD

SOMETIMES RESTAURANT STAFF HELP US OUT
WORKER SOLIDARITY!



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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THREE GREEN LIGHTS

DRAW A ⚡ CARD

THESE BAGS CAN BE HEAVY
IT IS HARD TO STOP AND START



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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TRAM TRACKS

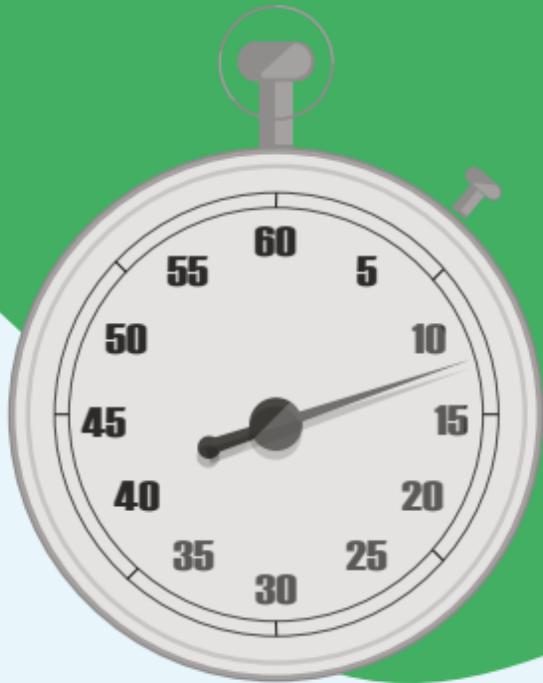
PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

SOME CITY INFRASTRUCTURE IS HOSTILE
AND DANGEROUS TO CYCLISTS



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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WAITING FOR CUSTOMER

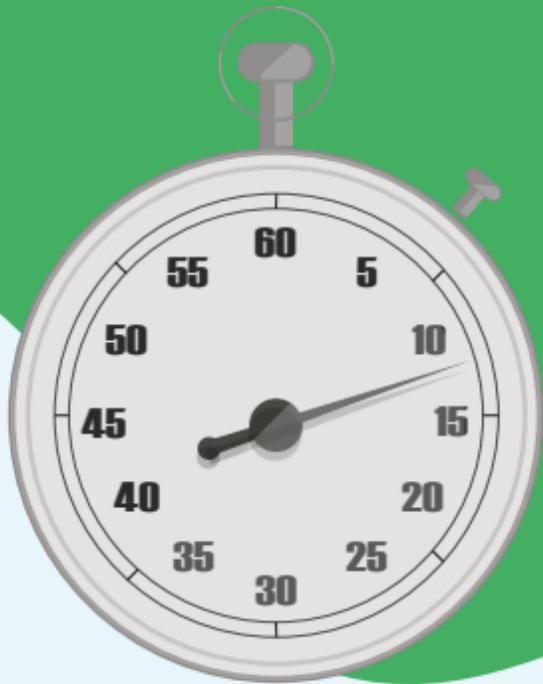
PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

**IF YOU GET PAID BY DELIVERY,
ANY DELAY IS LOST INCOME**



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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WAIT FOR RESTAURANT

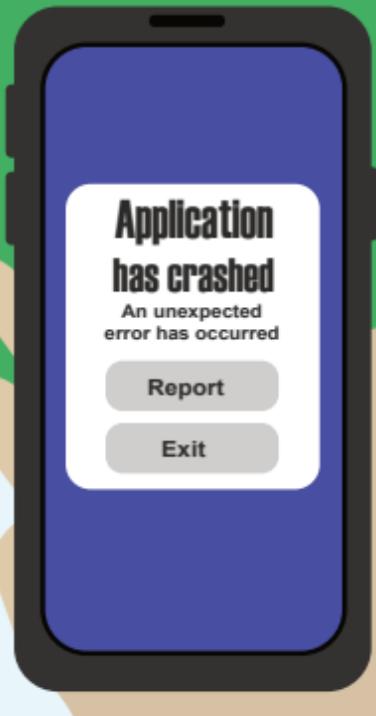
PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

SOME RESTAURANTS LIE ABOUT BEING READY
THIS WAITING MEANS I EARN BELOW MIN WAGE



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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TRACKING APP CRASHED

PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

HANDY 3RD PARTY TOOLS HELP TRACK WORK
BUT COST MONEY AND TIME TO MAINTAIN



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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BIKE BROKE

PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

IT HAPPENS NOW AND THEN.
HOPEFULLY I HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS...



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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DESPERATE!

PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

SOMETIMES YOU GET CAUGHT SHORT
BUT CITIES HAVE REMOVED PUBLIC FACILITIES



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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ROADWORKS

PAY ⚡ OR DISCARD THIS JOB

A SKIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CYCLE LANE
AND GRAVEL ALL OVER THE ROAD



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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**BOOST
£1**

PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR EARNINGS

SOMETIMES PLATFORMS GIVE BONUSES
NOT MUCH, BUT IT HELPS WHEN IT IS QUIET



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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TIP

£2

PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR EARNINGS

**IT IS RARE BUT IT REALLY HELPS
IT IS NICE TO BE APPRECIATED**



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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TIP

£2

PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR EARNINGS

**IT IS RARE BUT IT REALLY HELPS
IT IS NICE TO BE APPRECIATED**



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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TIP

£2

PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR EARNINGS

**THEY REMEMBERED TO ADD IT TO THE ORDER
SOME APPS HANDLE TIPS WEIRDLY**



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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BIG TIP

£5

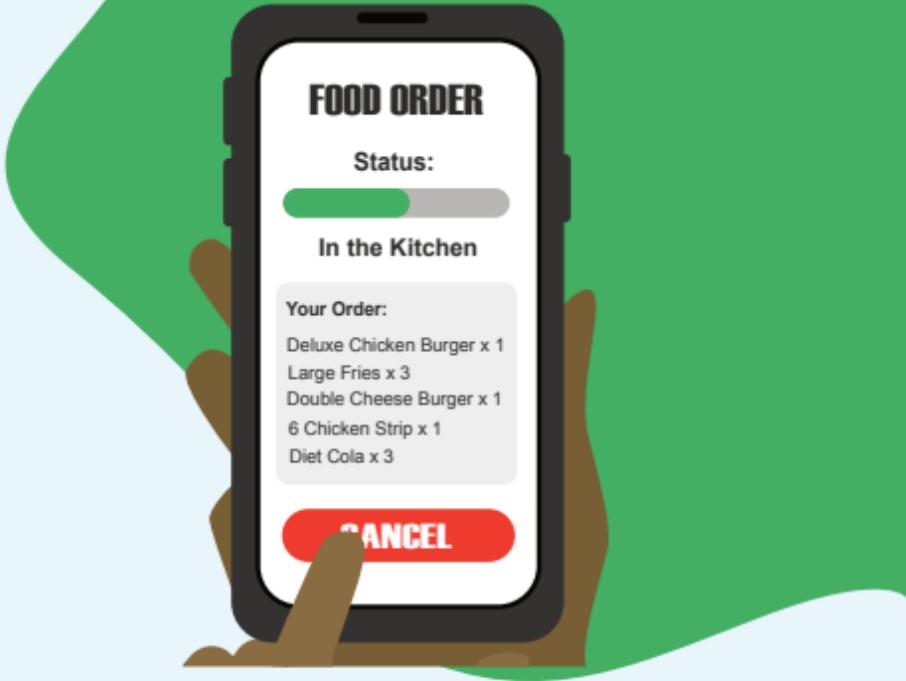
PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR EARNINGS

A KIND AND FAVOURITE CUSTOMER
I KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEIR ORDERS



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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JOB CANCELLED

£-1

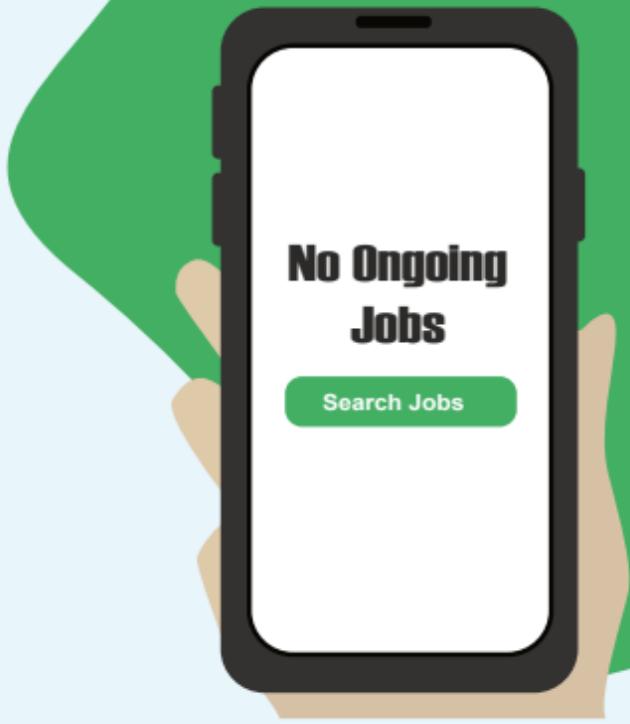
PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR EARNINGS

BUT I'M ALREADY NEAR THE RESTAURANT...
‘SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE’



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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JOB VANISHES FROM APP

DISCARD THE JOB. DRAW A ⚡ CARD

SOMETIMES JOBS DISAPPEAR ON THE WAY
NO PAY, BUT AT LEAST YOU GET A FREE MEAL



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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PICKET AT RESTAURANT

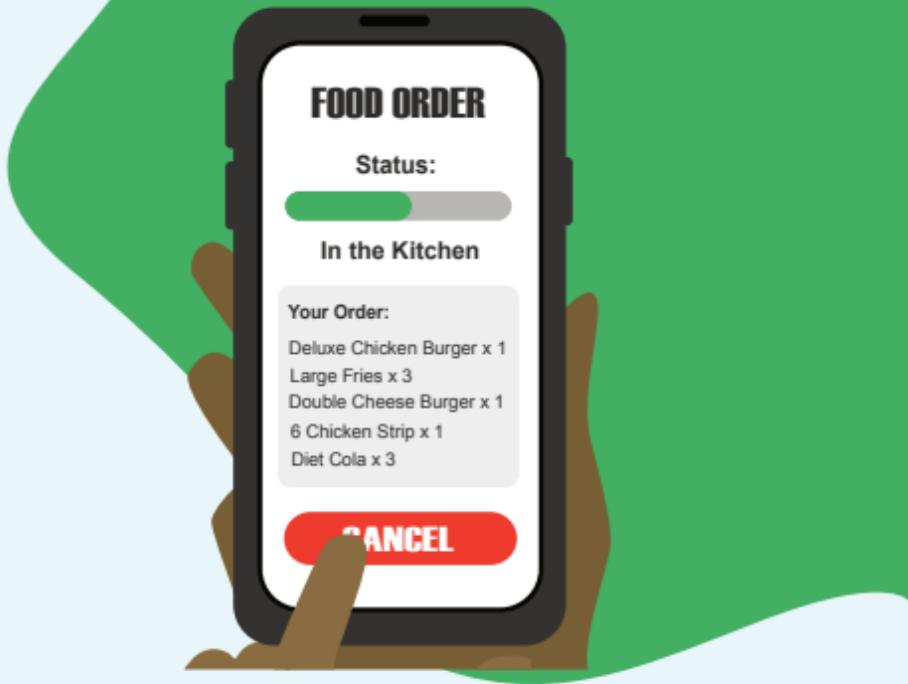
DISCARD THE JOB. DRAW A ⚡ CARD

A SHAME TO LOSE THIS JOB
BUT THE FIGHT FOR FAIR WORK IS IMPORTANT



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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ORDER IS AN ERROR

COMPLETE THE JOB. DRAW A ⚡ CARD

WHEN CUSTOMERS CANCEL ORDERS LATE
YOU STILL GET PAID AND CAN DONATE THE FOOD



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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RIDER ASSISTANCE

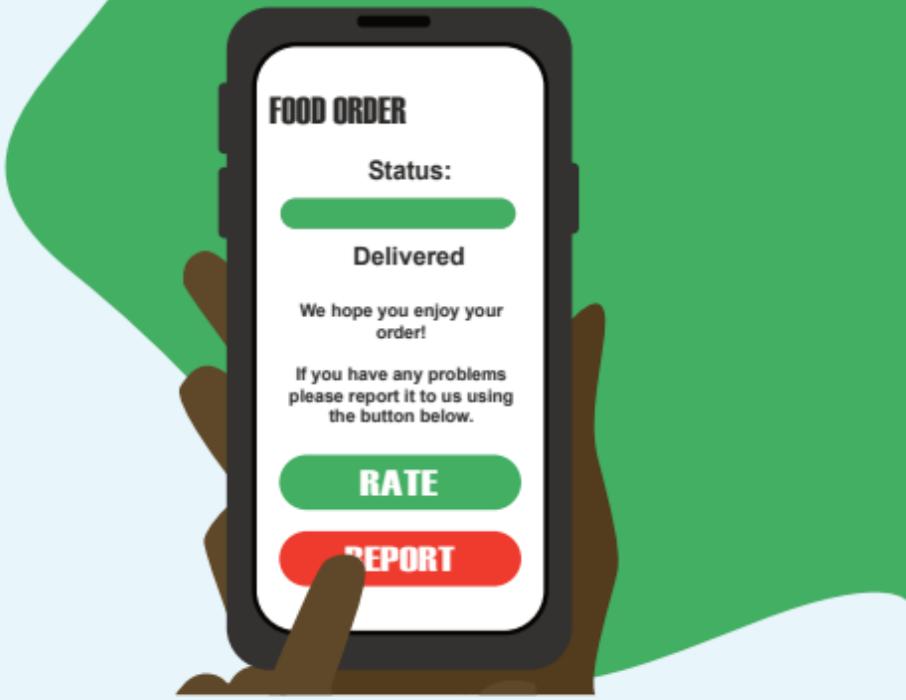
DISCARD THIS JOB UNLESS
ANOTHER PLAYER PAYS ⚡

ARE WE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER?
SOLIDARITY CAN HELP EVERYONE, LONG TERM



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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CUSTOMER REPORTS YOU

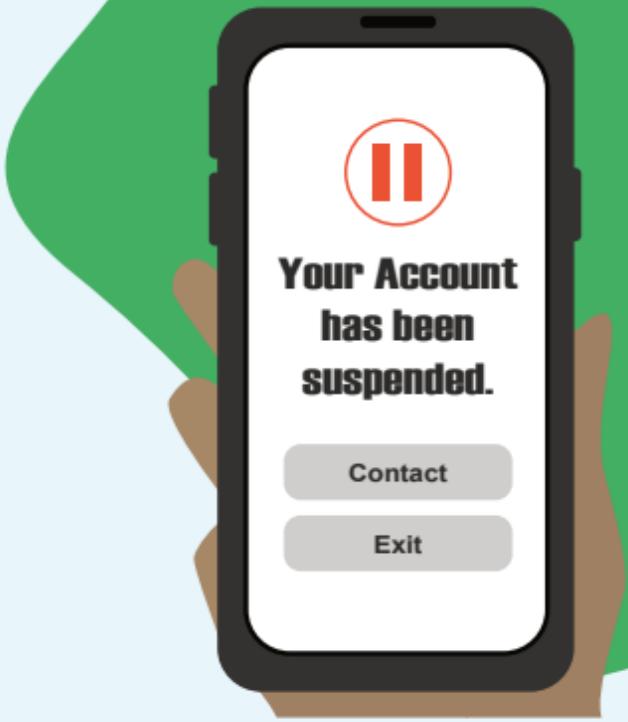
COMPLETE JOB, DISCARD ALL ⚡ CARDS

I DON'T KNOW WHY. WHAT DID I DO?
NOW MY ACCOUNT IS SUSPENDED



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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ACCOUNT SUSPENDED

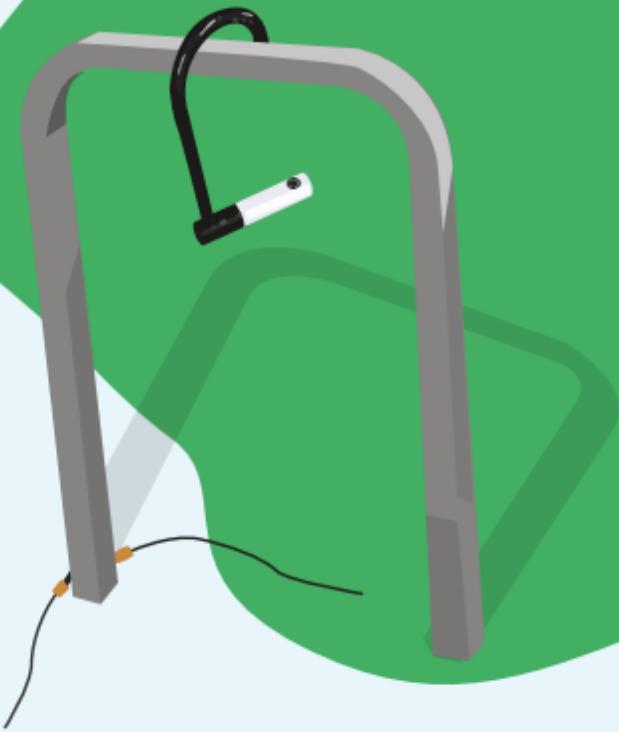
COMPLETE JOB, DISCARD ALL ⚡ CARDS

THE APP CAN STOP YOU WORKING ANY TIME,
FOR NO REASON. HOPE IT IS ENABLED SOON



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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BIKE STOLEN

COMPLETE JOB, DISCARD ALL ⚡ CARDS

AN OCCASIONAL ANNOYANCE.
HOPEFULLY SOMEONE HAS A BIKE TO LEND ME



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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CHASTISED BY POLICE

DISCARD A ⚡ CARD.
IF THE JOB HAS ⚠ DISCARD IT TOO.

I'M NOT BEING PAID TO HEAR A LECTURE
AT LEAST IT WASN'T A FINE



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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CHASTISED BY POLICE

DISCARD A ⚡ CARD.
IF THE JOB HAS ⚠ DISCARD IT TOO.

I'M NOT BEING PAID TO HEAR A LECTURE
AT LEAST IT WASN'T A FINE



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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FINED BY POLICE

**DISCARD THIS JOB.
IF IT HAS ⚠ DISCARD LAST JOB TOO**

**TECHNICALLY IT IS RIGHT I SUPPOSE
BUT IT MIGHT RUIN MY WEEK**



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

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EXPERIENCE

TAKE THIS INTO YOUR HAND.
IT IS WORTH 

AFTER A WHILE, YOU GET TO KNOW THE CITY
THIS KNOWLEDGE GIVES YOU AN EDGE



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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EXPERIENCE

TAKE THIS INTO YOUR HAND.
IT IS WORTH 

AFTER A WHILE, YOU GET TO KNOW THE CITY
THIS KNOWLEDGE GIVES YOU AN EDGE



A graphic of a bicycle wheel with spokes radiating from the center, set against a dark green background.

**B
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JUST FEELING A BIT TIRED TODAY
EVERYTHING IS TAKING LONGER



EMERGENCY



JUST FEELING A BIT TIRED TODAY
EVERYTHING IS TAKING LONGER



EMERGENCY



z z

z



FEELING ILL BUT STILL HAVE TO WORK...
HOPE I'M NOT CONTAGIOUS



EMERGENCY



NICE WEATHER TODAY!
LOTS OF RIDERS WORKING, BUT NO EXTRA JOBS



EMERGENCY



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ALL THIS FOOD IS MAKING ME HUNGRY
NO TIME TO TAKE A BREAK



EMERGENCY



EMERGENCY



EMERGENCY



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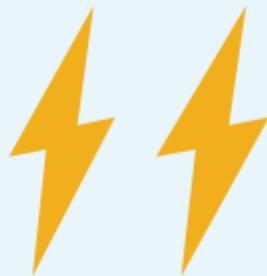
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EMERGENCY



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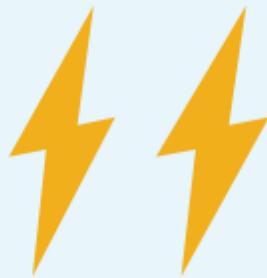
EMERGENCY



EMERGENCY



EMERGENCY



EMERGENCY



 → £4

SOME RESTAURANTS PRIORITISE DRIVE-THRU
AND COURIERS MUST WAIT, UNPAID



Job



⚡ ⚡ → £4

SOME RESTAURANTS PRIORITYSE DRIVE-THRU
AND COURIERS MUST WAIT, UNPAID



Job



⚡ ⚡ → £4

THEY ORDERED SOUP BY BICYCLE?!
HOPEFULLY THE LID STAYS ON, THIS TIME



Job

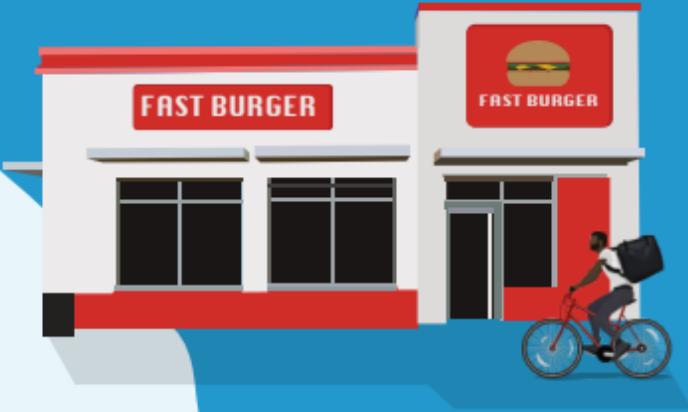


 → £4

GETTING OUT, GETTING FIT,
AND GETTING PAID



Job



 → £4

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE IF THE DEMAND IS HIGH
ALWAYS TEMPTED BY ONE MORE JOB



Job



⚡ ⚡ → £4

I'VE NOT BEEN ROUND HERE BEFORE...
COOL TO DISCOVER NEW PARTS OF THE CITY



Job



 → £4

GOOD TO CATCH UP WITH OTHER RIDERS
AT RESTAURANTS AND AT RED LIGHTS



Job



 → £4

GROCERY ORDERS ARE THE EASIEST.
NOTHING TO SPILL!



Job



 → £4

IF THE REST OF THE SHIFT IS LIKE THIS,
I'LL MAKE RENT EASILY THIS WEEK



Job



⚡ → £1

THIS JOB FEELS A BIT OF A WASTE OF TIME
FOR SO LITTLE PAY



Job



⚡ → £1

IS IT ACTUALLY WORTH IT TO TAKE THIS JOB?
MAYBE I'LL MISS A BETTER ONE



Job



⚡ → £1

SHORT JOBS ARE WORTH MUCH LESS
WHEN YOU LOOK AT HOW LONG THEY TAKE



Job



⚡ → £1

SHORT JOBS ARE WORTH MUCH LESS
WHEN YOU LOOK AT HOW LONG THEY TAKE



Job

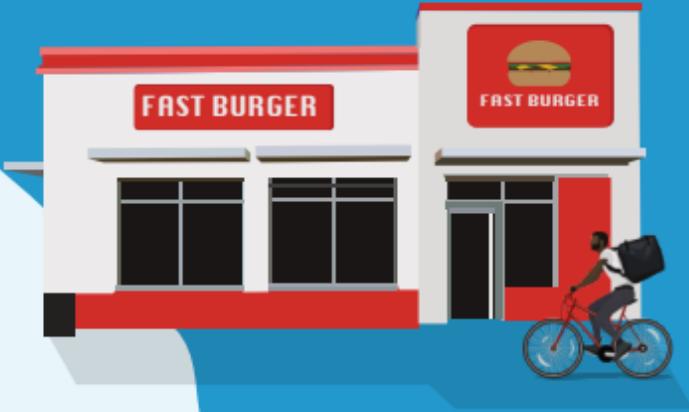


⚡ → £1

IF I REJECT THIS, WILL I GET A BETTER ONE?
...OR WILL THE ALGORITHM PUNISH ME?



Job



⚡ → £2

THEY ORDERED FROM A SHOP ON THEIR ROAD!
THEIR LAZINESS IS MY GAIN



Job



⚡ → £2

THE APP DOES NOT KNOW THE AREA WELL.
THERE IS A SNICKET STRAIGHT THROUGH HERE



Job



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £6

GOOD DISTANCE,
GOOD MONEY



Job



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £6

A BIT FAR AWAY FROM THE CENTRE,
BUT THERE WILL BE MORE WORK AROUND THERE



Job



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £6

WORKING ALONE CAN BE BORING,
BUT THE CHAT GROUPS KEEP US CONNECTED



Job



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £6

SOMETIMES YOU GET A GOOD FEELING
ABOUT A JOB...



Job



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £6

IF ALL ORDERS WERE LIKE THIS ONE,
THIS JOB WOULD BE PERFECT



Job



⚡⚡⚡⚡ → £6

THE APP THINKS THIS IS NEAR,
BUT THESE FLATS ARE A MAZE TO NAVIGATE



Job



 → £8

BIG JOB, BUT NOT MUCH AROUND THERE,
I WILL NEED TO TREK BACK TO TOWN



Job

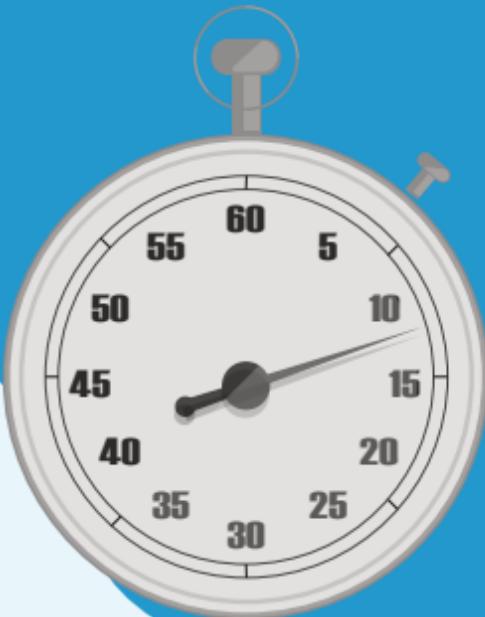


→ £8

THESE APARTMENT TOWERS ARE A PAIN,
MOST OF THIS IS BY FOOT



Job

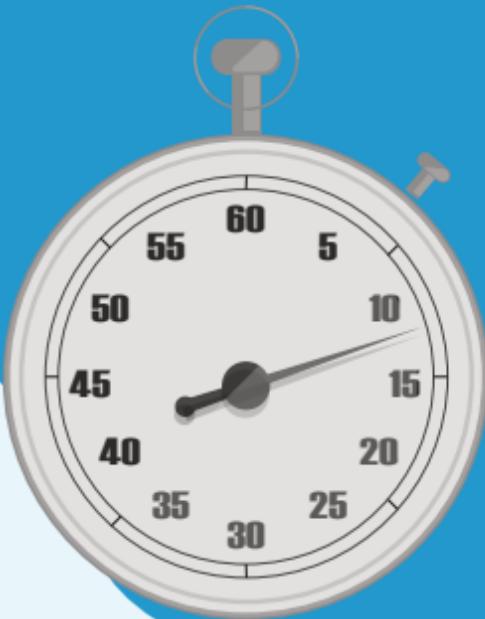


**NO JOBS AVAILABLE
YOUR TURN ENDS IMMEDIATELY
CANNOT REJECT**

**WHY IS EVERY OTHER RIDER GETTING JOBS
WHILE I'M WAITING? DID I DO SOMETHING?**



Job

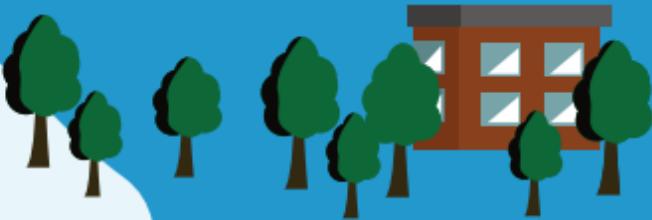


**NO JOBS AVAILABLE
YOUR TURN ENDS IMMEDIATELY
CANNOT REJECT**

**APPS HIRE MORE RIDERS THAN NEEDED,
SOMETIMES THERE IS NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT**



Job



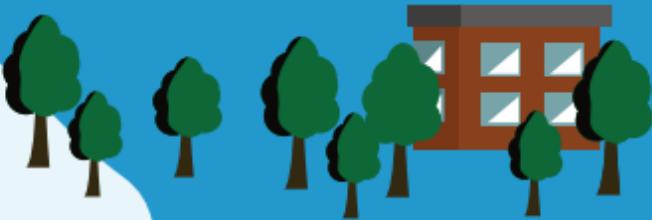
⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £4

DO NOT DRAW A RIDE CARD FOR THIS JOB

ANNOYING DESTINATION,
BUT SAFE AND EASY



Job



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ → £4

DO NOT DRAW A RIDE CARD FOR THIS JOB

ANNOYING DESTINATION,
BUT SAFE AND EASY



Job



⚡ ⚡ → £4

DRAW NEXT JOB AND COMPLETE
BOTH FOR 1 FEWER ⚡ TOTAL

SOMETIMES THE PLATFORM ASKS YOU TO
DELIVER TWO JOBS IN ONE TRIP



Job



⚡ ⚡ → £4

DRAW NEXT JOB AND COMPLETE
BOTH FOR 1 FEWER ⚡ TOTAL

WORKING FOR TWO APPS SIMULTANEOUSLY
CAN SAVE TIME BY DOUBLING UP JOBS



Job



A BIT OF A SKETCHY ROUTE...
MAYBE I CAN RISK IT?



Job



A BIT OF A SKETCHY ROUTE...
MAYBE I CAN RISK IT?



Job



SOME SHORTCUTS JUST HAVE BAD VIBES
...BUT IT WILL SAVE A LOT OF TIME...



Job



IS THAT TAXI DRIVER RECORDING ME CUT?
MAYBE I WONT BE IDENTIFIABLE...



Job



One way



EVERYBODY USES THIS SHORTCUT,
EVEN THOUGH IT IS CLEARLY NOT ALLOWED



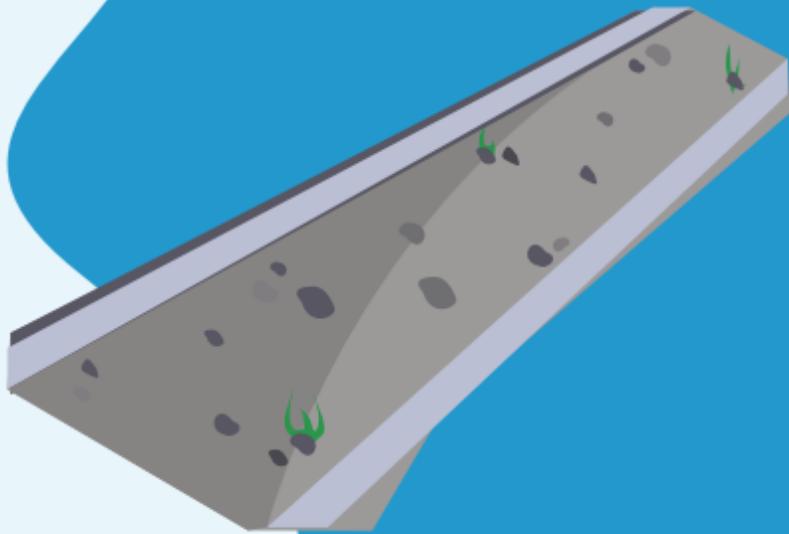
Job



I THINK THE LIGHT IS ABOUT TO TURN GREEN,
I JUST NEED TO GET A HEAD START



Job



THIS ROAD IS PEDESTRIANISED
BUT IT WILL SAVE A TIME TO NIP THROUGH



Job



One way



HMM, IF I GO THE WRONG WAY DOWN THIS
1 WAY STREET IT WILL SAVE SOME TIME



Job



IS SUPPORTED BY

CRANK & FILE

**SWITCH
GIG**



NOT-EQUAL



EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



**Lancaster
University**





MEAL DEAL is part of Crank & File. This is a collection of provocations, games, imaginary products, and tea towels, that explore real issues faced by gig workers.

These projects are all based on extensive academic research with couriers across the UK. The findings are presented in unexpected ways to engage the public with the new challenges faced by workers in the gig economy.

For more information, papers and sources:

<https://crankandfile.co.uk>

ARE YOU A RIDER?



adcu.org.uk



iwgb.org.uk

Riding can be a tough but rewarding job. If you are an independent contractor, make sure you protect yourself.

Consider joining a union such as ADCU or IWGB Couriers' Branch, to connect with others and fight for fair pay and safer conditions.

Not all cities have local branches but the unions are active across the UK. Apart from solidarity, the community can help you understand tax, mileage allowances for your work, and your rights if things go wrong.

ARE YOU A CUSTOMER?



It can be confusing to understand how app platforms work with couriers.

Couriers are mostly independent, and often work for multiple apps simultaneously. Studies show they regularly earn below living wage[†].

Couriers are usually only paid while on the job. They are as angry as you are at the delays caused by restaurants.

Apps vary in how tips are handled, some do it before ordering, some after, and some don't at all. Cash is always appreciated!

The situations, choices and events in Meal Deal have all come from real experiences of couriers in the UK[†]

[†]More information at crankandfile.co.uk

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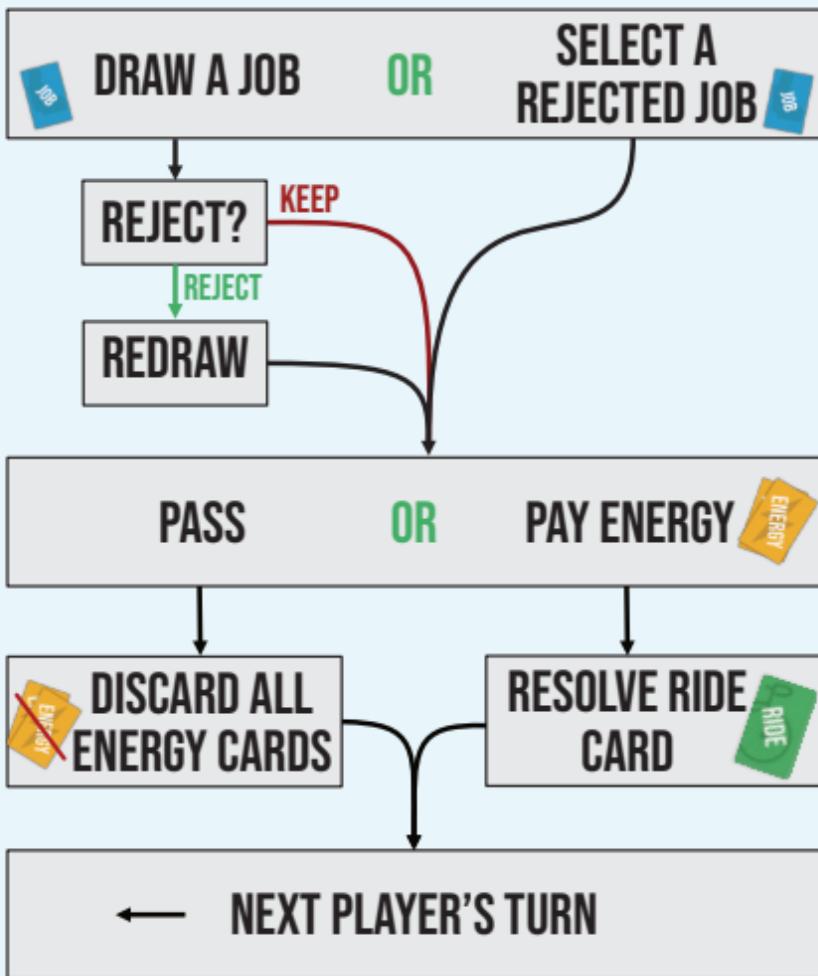


apickerling23@outlook.com

07787565021



ON YOUR TURN:





1 ENERGY



CANNOT BE USED FOR ENERGY



THIS IS A RISKY JOB



USE ENERGY CARDS TO PAY COSTS
FOR JOB CARDS



COMPLETE JOB CARDS TO EARN
MONEY



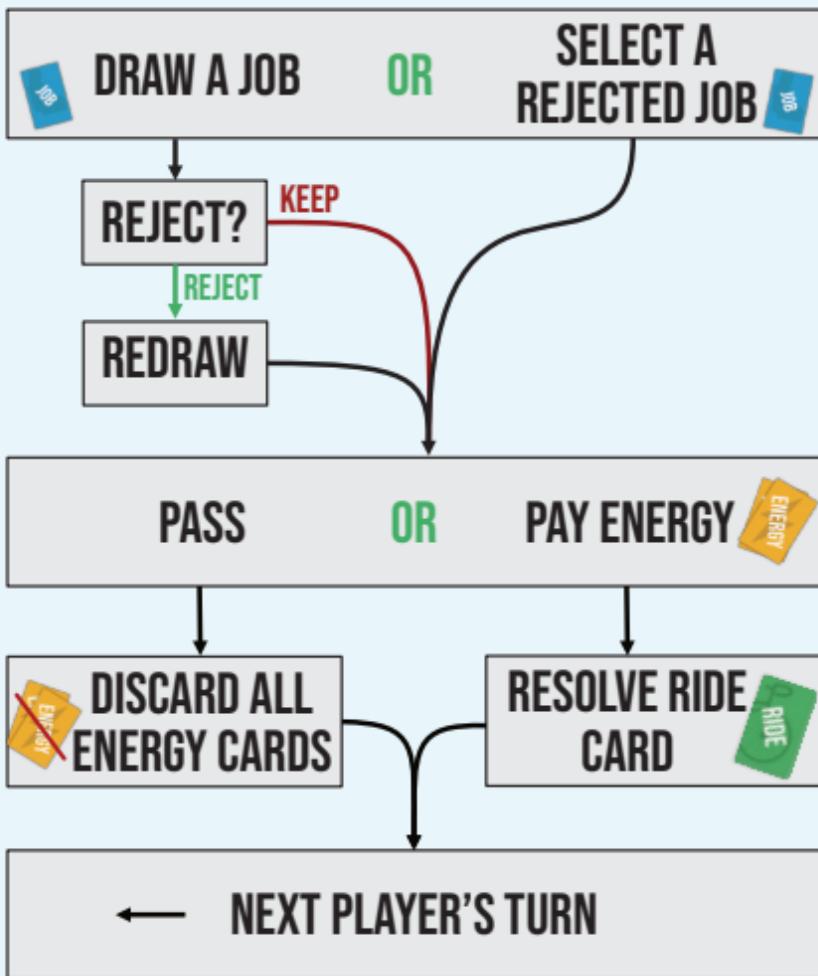
EACH JOB IS AFFECTED BY AN EVENT
FROM A RIDE CARD



£32
RENT IS DUE AFTER 3 DAYS
MOST LEFT OVER MONEY WINS!



ON YOUR TURN:





1 ENERGY



CANNOT BE USED FOR ENERGY



THIS IS A RISKY JOB



USE ENERGY CARDS TO PAY COSTS
FOR JOB CARDS



COMPLETE JOB CARDS TO EARN
MONEY



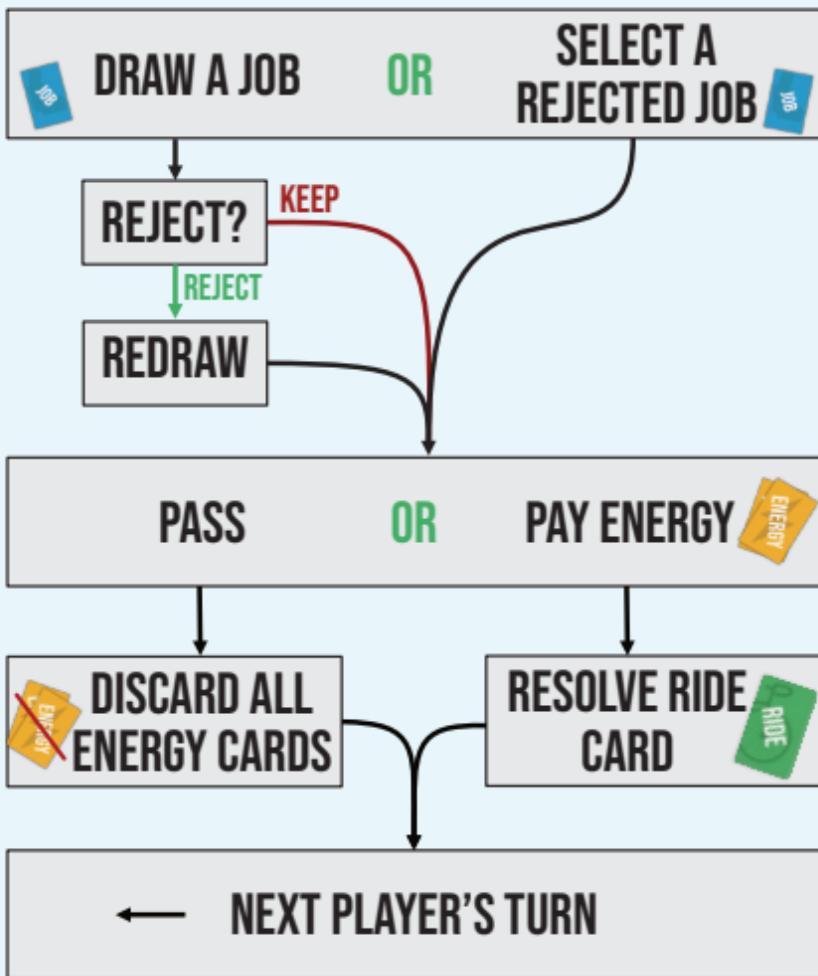
EACH JOB IS AFFECTED BY AN EVENT
FROM A RIDE CARD



£32
RENT IS DUE AFTER 3 DAYS
MOST LEFT OVER MONEY WINS!



ON YOUR TURN:





1 ENERGY



CANNOT BE USED FOR ENERGY



THIS IS A RISKY JOB



USE ENERGY CARDS TO PAY COSTS
FOR JOB CARDS



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MONEY



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