B1-B2 English Worksheet

GTA 6 Sick Days: Is It OK to Take Time Off Work to Play?

17 November 2026

Article

The anticipated release of Grand Theft Auto VI on 19 November 2026 has started a lively debate about work. Fans look forward to a new main game after thirteen years, and some want to take time off to play it. In a survey of 1,530 full-time US employees, 18% said they planned to be absent on launch day. But these answers describe intentions, not what people will actually do. News reports suggest some fans might call in sick, although there is limited reliable evidence of a huge wave of dishonest absences. The distinction between booked holiday and pretending to be ill is important.

Using annual leave to enjoy a game can be a legitimate personal choice. People also want time off for football finals, concerts, weddings or a friend's birthday because they do not want to miss out on special moments. Employers still have to manage the work schedule. Colleagues may need to cover for absent staff, and workers might have to make up for delayed tasks. When several people request the same day, a manager may turn down someone's application. Clear rules and flexibility can reduce pressure and help everyone plan ahead.

Should work always be the first priority? Some people put off family celebrations because they feel guilty about taking leave. Others try to fit in hobbies around busy shifts. A reasonable system respects people's personal lives while keeping essential services running. Employers need enough staff, especially in hospitals or transport, and employees should be honest about their absence. Ultimately, the disagreement may come down to trust. The real question is not whether gaming is important enough, but whether people can use their earned time fairly without leaving colleagues to deal with avoidable problems.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

No.	Statement	T / F
1	Grand Theft Auto VI is scheduled for release on 19 November 2026.	
2	The survey proved that 18% of workers actually stayed home on release day.	
3	The article says managers can always approve every holiday request.	
4	People may want time off for football finals, concerts and weddings.	
5	Colleagues may need to take over some work when somebody is absent.	
6	Hospitals and transport services never need to consider staffing levels.	
7	The writer distinguishes planned holiday from pretending to be ill.	
8	The article argues that personal interests should never affect work plans.	

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. look forward to	A. be away from work for a period of time
2. take time off	B. temporarily do another person's work
3. call in sick	C. find time for something in a busy routine
4. miss out on	D. tell work that you cannot attend because you are ill
5. make up for	E. refuse an offer, request or application
6. put off	F. lose the chance to enjoy or experience something
7. turn down	G. delay something until a later time
8. fit in	H. feel excited about something that is going to happen
9. cover for	I. have one central issue or explanation
10. come down to	J. compensate for something lost or delayed

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. anticipated	A. adaptability
2. survey	B. dependable
3. schedule	C. poll
4. legitimate	D. strain
5. flexibility	E. fair
6. pressure	F. difference
7. reasonable	G. timetable
8. essential	H. valid
9. reliable	I. eagerly awaited
10. distinction	J. necessary

Use the New Language

Choose 5 words or phrases from the worksheet and write your own sentences.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A	Student B
1. What would you happily take a day off work or study to enjoy?	1. Should workers have to explain how they spend their annual leave?
2. Have you ever booked holiday for a football match, concert or special event?	2. Is pretending to be sick ever acceptable when you need a personal day?
3. How much notice do you normally give when requesting time off?	3. Should a wedding, football final and gaming launch be treated equally?
4. Which family event would you never want to miss because of work?	4. How should managers decide when several people want the same day off?
5. Have you ever turned down an invitation because you had to work?	5. Should hospital workers face stricter holiday rules than office workers?
6. Have you ever needed a colleague to cover for you?	6. Should a good employee always put work before family and friends?
7. How do you usually fit in hobbies around work or study?	7. Can flexible hours benefit workers without increasing colleagues' pressure?
8. Would you tell your manager you wanted leave to play a video game?	8. What would a fair company policy on personal leave look like?

Answer Key

True/False	1=T, 2=F, 3=F, 4=T, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=F
Phrase Match	1=H, 2=A, 3=D, 4=F, 5=J, 6=G, 7=E, 8=C, 9=B, 10=I
Synonym Match	1=I, 2=C, 3=G, 4=H, 5=A, 6=D, 7=E, 8=J, 9=B, 10=F

Example Sentences With the Phrases

No.	Example sentence
1	Many fans look forward to the arrival of a new game.
2	I plan to take time off for my sister's wedding.
3	It is dishonest to call in sick when you are perfectly well.
4	She did not want to miss out on the concert.
5	We worked later to make up for the delayed delivery.
6	Do not put off an important conversation for weeks.
7	The manager may turn down requests made at the last minute.
8	I can fit in a short workout before my evening lesson.
9	A colleague agreed to cover for me on Friday.
10	The disagreement may come down to a lack of trust.