



Lesson 6

Almost Always Late

Irene was the manager of an ice cream store. Early in the summer, she hired Joey, a high school student, to help her. Joey worked four afternoons a week and all day on Saturday. Joey was a very good worker. He was polite to customers. He worked quickly and always kept busy. But Joey had one big problem. He was almost always late for work.

Joey had many excuses. "My bicycle had a flat tire," he said, or "My shoelace broke, and I had to find a new one." Irene didn't want to hear his excuses. She only wanted Joey to arrive on time and be ready to work when his shift began.

One afternoon, Joey arrived eight minutes late. Irene was angry. But the store was busy, so she didn't say anything. Finally, there was no one in the store. Joey began to clean the counters. Irene said, "Joey, you were late again today. Please don't give me another excuse. If you're late again, I'll have to fire you."

"It won't happen again," said Joey.
"I'm so sorry." Irene calmed down and
Joey continued working. At the end of his
shift, Joey picked up his jacket and walked
toward the door.

"See you tomorrow," said Irene. "Please
be on time. I need you here at 2:00 on the
dot!"

"Of course," said Joey. "But sometimes
my watch is a little slow."



Answer the questions.

1. What was Irene the manager of?
2. When did she hire Joey?
3. When did Joey work?
4. How was Joey to customers?
5. What big problem did Joey have?
6. What excuses did Joey have?
7. What did Irene want?
8. How many minutes late did Joey arrive one afternoon?
9. What did Irene say when there was no one in the store?
10. What did Joey say?
11. When did Joey pick up his jacket and walk toward the door?
12. What time did Irene say she needed Joey tomorrow?

A Conversation with the Manager

Practice the dialog with a partner.

- A. You're eight minutes late!**
B. My bicycle had a flat tire.
A. Please don't give me another excuse.
B. It's true. I had to fix it.
A. Tomorrow, I need you here at 2:00 on the dot!
B. Okay. I'll leave for work earlier tomorrow.
A. If you're late again, I'll have to fire you.
B. It won't happen again. I'm so sorry.



Joey's Schedule

Read Joey's schedule. Then answer the questions below.

Monday	Day Off	
Tuesday	2:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday	1:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.
Thursday	2:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.
Friday	1:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.
Saturday	11:00 A.M.	7:00 P.M.
Sunday	Day Off	

1. What time does Joey begin work on Thursday?
2. Which days does Joey work from 1:00 to 5:00?
3. How many hours does he work each day Tuesday through Friday?
4. What hours does Joey work on Saturday?
5. Which days does Joey have off?
6. How many hours does Joey work every week?

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes No 1. I work afternoons.

Do you work afternoons? _____

Yes No 2. I work all day on Saturdays.

Yes No 3. I think I'm a good worker.

Yes No 4. I arrive on time.

Yes No 5. I think it's bad to be late for work.

Yes No 6. I sometimes make excuses if I'm late for work.

Yes No 7. I sometimes get fired.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What are some good excuses for being late for work? What are not good excuses?
2. What excuses do students sometimes have for being late for school?
3. What are some reasons that managers sometimes have to fire workers?