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Instructor's Name

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Date

Being a Sonic Carhop

Though the fast-food restaurant Sonic has delicious burgers and chili dogs, working there was a nightmare for me. My job as a carhop there was not a good experience due to Arkansas's unpredictable weather, angry and hard-to-please customers, and unpredictable work hours.

The first thing that made Sonic carhopping miserable was Arkansas's unpredictable weather. Since, as a carhop, I spent most of my workdays outside, weather made this job very difficult. First, a windy day was the worst. I carried the bags of food, drinks, receipts, straws, napkins, and dollar bills on trays, and all of these could be blown away. For example, one day I was taking an order out, and it was so windy that I lost all the napkins I had on my tray, so I had to go back in and get more napkins. When the customers gave me the money for the food, I had to get change from my apron, but when I was going to hand them the change, two dollar bills took off flying down the parking lot, and it was very embarrassing having to chase them around. Also, rain made many days miserable. For instance, one rainy day at work, a customer parked across the parking lot, and since there was no awning on the way to the vehicle, I had to walk in the pouring rain. By the time I got there, my hair, my shirt, and the bag of food were soaking wet; therefore, for hours after that I was wet, making for a miserable, cold day.

Besides unpredictable weather, angry and hard-to-please customers made my Sonic carhopping job a bad experience. As a carhop, I had to receive orders inside the building on what is called a speaker. Speakers were hard to hear on sometimes, especially if someone's

vehicle was really loud. For example, one day a customer came through the drive-thru, and when I tried to take his order, the man's truck was so loud that I could not hear him plainly. I had to ask him to please pull up to the window so I could take his order, and when he got to the window, he was mad and ended up yelling about how awful the service he received was, and he flew out of the parking lot without even ordering anything. Some other people ended up not ordering, but when people did place an order, sometimes their orders ended up not being specialized to their liking. When I had times that the food was not what the customers ordered, I would have to stand at their vehicles while they yelled at me and sometimes refused to pay for their food.

The only thing worse about my job at Sonic than angry and hard-to-please customers was unpredictable work hours. When I worked at Sonic, I would have my schedule given to me a week in advance, but sometimes the schedule would change. If the schedule changed, it was usually because someone called in sick, and I would be called in to work, making it hard to plan any type of outings for my week. Also, I had to work a lot of double shifts at Sonic, which meant I would work from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then come back at 6 p.m. and work until closing. Double shifts mostly happened to be on Saturdays, which was the worst time because not only was my morning ruined, but my night was too. I was never able to plan anything fun for myself because my work hours were always unpredictable.

In closing, being a Sonic carhop was a miserable job for me. Being wet and cold or having to chase dollar bills through the parking lot because of Arkansas's unpredictable weather made this job very annoying. And angry and hard-to-please customers, along with unpredictable work hours, made being a carhop at Sonic a job I never want to do again.