Have you wronged people before? Have you said sorry for the wrong things you’ve done?

**DEFINITION**
An *apology* is something that you say or do that tells someone whom you have wronged that you admit what you did was wrong and that you are sorry for having caused them such inconvenience.

**WARM-UP**
Match the apologies in column A with the promises in column B. No. 1 is already given as your guide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sorry about spilling milk all over your carpet last night. D</td>
<td>a. I’ll keep it down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I’m sorry – I forgot to call you yesterday.</td>
<td>b. I’ll get you a new pair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sorry for losing the earrings you lent me.</td>
<td>c. I’ll ring you up first thing tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I apologize for not giving you a heads up about the change of plans.</td>
<td>d. I’ll take it to the cleaner’s later this afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I apologize for the noise.</td>
<td>e. I’ll make sure to inform you about any new updates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LANGUAGE POINT**
The following structures are used to express an apology.

*(be) sorry about + noun*
Example: I’m sorry about your loss.

*(be) sorry about + (gerund) verb –ing*
Example: I’m sorry about entering the room without your permission.

*(be) sorry + subject + verb*
Example: I’m sorry I called you names in third grade.

*(be) sorry to + infinitive*
Example: I’m sorry to hear that.

*apologize for + verb –ing*
Example: I apologize for being late today.

*apologize to + noun*
Example: They should apologize to their clients for being rude.

Other expressions used when apologizing:

I’d like to apologize…
I shouldn’t have…
Please, forgive me for (my)…
Pardon me for this…
Please accept my apologies for…
I’m terribly sorry for/about…
THE APOLOGY

PRACTICE 1
Respond appropriately to the following apologies. Choose from the box.

That's all right. We haven't started yet anyway. I should think so too! What you did cost us many of our customers. Never mind. Just make sure to knock first next time. Oh, don't worry about it. I have an extra shirt in my locker.

John : I'm terribly sorry for the inconvenience.
Jim : _______________________________________________.

John : Sorry about spilling coffee on your shirt this morning.
Jim : _______________________________________________.

John : I apologize for being late today.
Jim : _______________________________________________.

John : I'm sorry I barged in on you like that.
Jim : _______________________________________________.

Apology accepted!
Some positive responses to an apology:
* (No,) don't apologize.
* (No,) don't say sorry.
* It doesn't matter.
* That's okay / all right.
* No harm done.
* Don't mention it.
* Never mind.
* Apology accepted.

Apology NOT accepted!
Some negative responses to an apology:
*I'm afraid that's not good enough.
*We'll, you should be.
*I should think so too!

PRACTICE 2
Fill in the gaps with the appropriate expressions found in the box on the right side of the page. 😊

1. Would you care to _______ what's going on?
2. I _____________ so that I could leave the party early.
3. I _______ telling her the truth. She doesn't want to talk to me anymore.
4. I hope you could _______ me for acting childishly the other day.
5. Jim _______ his brother for breaking his toy.

A. blame (someone for something)
B. regret (something)
C. forgive (someone for something)
D. explain (something)
E. make an excuse

SPEAKING
Have you ever apologized for something you have done wrong?
Have you ever apologized for something you did not do? What was it? Why did you apologize for it?
What was the most unforgettable apology you have made or have witnessed?