

THE APOLOGY

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.

Column A

1. Sorry about spilling milk all over your carpet last night. **D**
2. I'm sorry – I forgot to call you yesterday.
3. Sorry for losing the earrings you lent me.
4. I apologize for not giving you a heads up about the change of plans.
5. I apologize for the noise.

Column B

- a. I'll keep it down.
- b. I'll get you a new pair.
- c. I'll ring you up first thing tomorrow.
- d. I'll take it to the cleaner's later this afternoon.
- e. I'll make sure to inform you about any new updates.

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...

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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?