

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now.

1-When someone **compliments** you, they say something nice about you. *EX: I love your short haircut. It makes you look like a model.*

When someone **apologizes**, they say they are sorry for something they have done. *EX: I am so sorry I did not send you a birthday card on your birthday.*

When someone makes an **excuse**, they give a reason why something wasn't done. *EX: I would have come to your party, but I didn't have a ride. OR Please excuse me for not shaking your hand. I broke my hand and it is very sore..*

2-You can apologize, accept an apology, owe an apology or make no apologies. What is the difference?

Look at these sentences and explain the different meanings

- A. *I apologize for my sister's rude behavior.*
- B. *Please accept my apology for my sister's rude behavior.*
- C. *I owe you an apology for the way my sister behaved last night.*
- D. *I make no apologies for my sister's behavior. The man she insulted was quite rude and deserved it.*

3-You can give a compliment, pay a compliment, accept a compliment or return the compliment. Read these sentences, then explain the difference.

- A. *Sara gave me a compliment on my speech.*
- B. *Sara paid me a nice compliment when she said my speech was funny.*
- C. *It is always hard for me to accept compliments. I never know what to say.*
- D. *When Sara said she enjoyed my speech, I returned the compliment. Her speech was one of the funniest I have ever heard.*

4-You can make an excuse, listen to an excuse or be excused. We say, "excuse me", when we bump into someone. Sometimes we give an excuse with an apology. *EX: I'm so sorry I didn't call last night. By the time I arrived it was too late. I didn't want to disturb you.* We ask to be excused from an assignment or from the dinner table. *EX: Mom, I'm finished. May I please be excused? May I be excused from attending the lecture tomorrow? I'm not feeling well.*

**Choose the correct word.**

- 1. I owe you a(n) **compliment/apology/excuse** for my actions yesterday.
- 2. My boss **complimented/apologized/excused** my speech.
- 3. My boss **compliments/apologizes/excuses** the women from tasks that require heavy lifting.
- 4. My boss **compliments/apologizes/excuses** to the women for having them lift the heavy books.
- 5. There is no **compliment/apology/excuse** for his actions.
- 6. My boss said no **compliment/apology/excuse** was needed. He understood it wasn't my fault.
- 7. My husband always **compliments/apologizes/excuses** me when I cook a nice dinner.
- 8. No one loves **compliments/apologies/excuses** more than I.

### **Idioms:**

1-A “back handed compliment” is a compliment that is partly an insult. *EX: You look very nice, for a woman of your age. Your son is more handsome than I expected. You’re a good driver, for a woman. Your hair looks much better than usual.*

2-If you are “fishing for a compliment”, you say something that you hope will get you compliments. *EX: How do I look in my new dress?*

3-A “blanket apology” is one that applies to a group of people. Sometimes blanket apologies are announced on the speaker system at the airport or through signs. *EX: We apologize for the inconvenience our construction is causing.*

A “lame excuse” is one that is not very convincing. *EX: No, I can’t go out with you this Saturday. I have to stay home and wash my hair.*

### **Accepting apologies**

Here are some good phrases for accepting an apology. Practice saying these phrases.

- A. That’s all right.
- B. Don't worry about it.
- C. You don't need to apologize.
- D. That’s OK.
- E. Don't mention it.
- F. I quite understand.
- G. I’m sure you couldn’t help it.
- H. No harm done.

### **Conversation:**

**Emmy:** Joy, I’m so sorry I am late. The traffic was awful.

**Joy:** Don't worry about it. You were only a few minutes late.

**Joseph:** Jim, I’m so sorry I missed our appointment. I had an emergency meeting at work. Can we reschedule sometime soon?

**Jim:** No harm done. I know you’re a busy man. We'll get together soon.

**Runi:** Jill, I just heard about your grandmother's death. I am so sorry to hear that. She was a wonderful woman. She will be missed.

**Jill:** Thanks, Runi. I miss her a lot already.

### **Other ways to say sorry for something bad that happened to a friend.**

I'm sorry for your loss.

My deepest sympathies.

My condolences.

How terrible! I'm so sorry that happened.

**Ann:** I'm sorry. I didn't understand what you said. Could you repeat that?

**Melba:** Yes, I was just asking if you would like to try on those shoes.

**Lisa:** Jess, how are you?

**Amy:** My name isn't Jess. I'm Amy.

**Lisa:** Oh, I'm so sorry. You look a lot like a friend of mine named Jess. It just popped into my head when I saw you. Please excuse me.

**Amy:** No problem.

**Pardon the expression** is used when you are about to say something shocking or with bad language. Pardon the expression, but I just don't give a damn what he thinks of me.

### **Discuss**

1. What are some things you have apologized for lately?
2. Who apologizes more, you or your husband/wife?
3. Do you wish your spouse would apologize more?
4. Does your spouse compliment you often?
5. Does it embarrass you when someone compliments you?
6. Give an example of a backhanded compliment you have heard.
7. Do you ever fish for compliments? How would you ask for a compliment?
8. Give an example of a blanket apology you have heard.
9. Give an example of a lame excuse.
10. Do you have to write excuses when your child is absent from school?