

# Apologizing



## 1 Warm Up Work with a partner.

- When did you last apologize?

## 2 Conversation Read and fill in the spaces.

Which words do you think are missing? Choose from the list on the right.

**Peter:** John – do you have a <sup>1</sup>.....? I wanted to talk to you about yesterday.

**John:** Okay...

**Peter:** Look, I went too far in the meeting and was really <sup>2</sup>..... to you. I was way out of line.

**John:** Yeah – you seemed pretty angry.

**Peter:** I know, and I want to apologize for my behavior. I said some things I shouldn't have in the heat of the moment.

**John:** That's ok. It's been <sup>3</sup>..... for all of us in the last few months – what with the <sup>4</sup>..... of this company, and everything.

**Peter:** I know, but even so...

**John:** Don't give it another thought! Come on – let's get some lunch.

**Peter:** Sounds good – but this one's on me!

- TOUGH**
- MINUTE**
- STATE**
- RUDE**

## 3 Do you remember? Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1) How do Peter and John know each other?  
.....
- 2) What happened in the meeting yesterday?  
.....
- 3) How does Peter feel about his behavior yesterday?  
.....
- 4) How does John react to Peter's apology?  
.....

**4 Practice Match the expression to its meaning.**

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) in the heat of the moment     | can I speak to you now |
| 2) do you have a minute          | it's no problem        |
| 3) be way out of line            | when (I) was angry     |
| 4) don't give it another thought | I will pay             |
| 5) this one is on me             | behave in a bad way    |

**5 Practice Rewrite the sentences using one of the expressions above.**

- I behaved very badly when I said you were stupid.
- Put your purse away - I'm paying for this meal!
- "I'm sorry I forgot your birthday!"  
"Oh it's fine. At my age, I try to forget about it myself!"
- Can you spare me some time? I need to check a couple of things.
- Charlie said some terrible things when he was angry.

**6 Practice Rewrite the sentences using one of the expressions above.**

**Peter:** John – do you have a minute? I wanted to talk to you about yesterday.

**John:** Okay...

**Peter:** Look, I went too ..... in the meeting and was really rude to you. I was way out of .....

**John:** Yeah – you seemed pretty angry.

**Peter:** I know, and I want to apologize for my ..... I said some things I shouldn't have in the ..... of the moment.

**John:** That's ok. It's been tough for all of us in the last few months – what with the state of this company, and .....

**Peter:** I know, but ..... so...

**John:** Don't give it another .....! Come on – let's get some lunch.

**Peter:** Sounds good – but this one's on me!

**BEHAVIOR**

**THOUGHT**

**EVERYTHING**

**FAR**

**HEAT**

**LINE**

**EVEN**

**7****Role-play****Work with a partner.****Student A**

Yesterday, you were rude to Student B.

Apologize by following the conversation pattern below.

- **Ask to speak to your partner.**
- **Say what you did wrong.**
- **Apologize for what you said.**
- **Give a reason for why you were rude.**

**Student B**

Student A was rude to you yesterday.

He / she is going to apologize to you.

- **Follow Student A's cues.**
- **Accept the apology.**

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## Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structure:</b>	Apologizing: Natural English Expressions
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	General
<b>Level:</b>	Upper Intermediate / Advanced
<b>Time:</b>	45 minutes
<b>Preparation:</b>	None

### Suggested Teaching Method

**This worksheet looks at expressions for apology and regret. There are a number of exercises to help your students memorize the language, followed by the opportunity to role-play.**

- 1 Give one worksheet to each student. Students should ask their partner the opening question. Elicit a couple of answers from the group.
- 2 Follow the instructions. Students should first read the conversation, and fill in the blanks with a word from the box.  
  
After students have checked in pairs, go through the answers, and have students practice the conversation in pairs. Encourage the students to look up and make eye contact with each other when speaking.
- 3 Students can work in pairs, asking and answering the questions. Go through the answers with the group.
- 4 Students can work alone and check in pairs. Alternatively, you could write the expressions on the board, and have students guess the meaning from context.
- 5 Students can work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group. Accept anything that is grammatically correct and makes sense.
- 6 Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers by comparing with the original conversation.
- 7 If possible, assign new pairs so that students are all working with someone new.

The goal of the role-play is to use as many of the natural expressions as possible in conversation.

Students should prepare for the role-play by deciding upon a situation - who said what and where.

They can then role-play, following the general pattern which is set out on the worksheet.

When finished, have students reverse roles.

**Answer Key****2**

- 1) minute
- 2) rude
- 3) tough
- 4) state

**3**

- 1) They are co-workers.
- 2) Peter lost his temper and was rude to John.
- 3) He regrets what he said and wants to apologize.
- 4) He accepts the apology.

**4**

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) in the heat of the moment     | when (I) was angry     |
| 2) do you have a minute          | can I speak to you now |
| 3) be way out of line            | behave in a bad way    |
| 4) don't give it another thought | it's no problem        |
| 5) this one is on me             | I will pay             |

**5**

- 1) I was way out of line when I said that you were stupid.
- 2) Put your purse away - this is on me!
- 3) "I'm sorry I forgot your birthday!"  
"Oh don't give it a second thought. At my age, I try to forget it myself."
- 4) Do you have a minute? I need to check a couple of things.
- 5) Charlie said some terrible things in the heat of the moment.

**Additional Ideas**

We'd be pleased to hear some feedback on our worksheets. Tell us how it went in your class. You can send us feedback from [www.handoutsonline.com](http://www.handoutsonline.com).

Alternatively, you can email the editor at [editor@handoutsonline.com](mailto:editor@handoutsonline.com).

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