# Group 1 Talking about awkward situation

**Reading: The perfect apology**

As long ago as 1976, Elton John wrote the line, 'Sorry seems to be the hardest word.' Not much has changed since then – saying sorry is still one of the hardest things to do. Here are **six simple steps** to make apologizing easier.

**Work out what you did wrong**

There's no use delivering an emotional, **heartfelt/sincere** apology, only for the person to tell you that was not why they were upset. Before you apologize, **work out** what you did wrong; if you have to, you can even ask the person you upset.

**Take all the blame = take your responsibilities**

If there are no excuses for your words or behavior, then don't make any. Don't blame the weather, don't blame your boss and don't blame the dog. **This is your apology. Own it.**

**Timing is everything**

It's usually best to apologize **directly** after your mistake. **On the other hand**, if you think the person is too angry or upset, it might be best to wait a while. The timing of your apology is up to you but, if you don't get it right, you risk making the person even more angry or upset than they were **in the first place**.

**Say 'sorry'**

Okay. You've worked out what you did wrong. You've chosen your time and your place. Now it's time to say those three, oh-so-difficult words, 'I am sorry.' Start by referring to what went wrong:

'About yesterday, when I forgot our anniversary . . .' Once you've established the purpose of the conversation, apologize in clear, direct sentences. Admit what you did wrong, and admit the hurt you caused:

'I shouldn't have forgotten. It was awful of me. I know how much it hurt you.' Then the magic words: 'I'm really, really sorry.'

**Make up for your mistake**

Saying sorry doesn't actually end with the word 'sorry.' Now **you’ve go**t to make amends赔偿；赔罪. Explain what you are going to do to make it up to the person补偿:

'I promise you, I'll never forget our anniversary again. **To make up fo**r yesterday, why don't we eat out at your favorite restaurant tonight? My treat/bill.'

Once you've explained how you are going to make amends, then do it, and do it properly. Ensure that the dinner is **exceptional**. Don't forget next year's anniversary. Keeping promises is an essential part of a relationship, as well as being the crucial part of an apology.

**Thank the person you hurt**

Thank the person for forgiving you. Tell them **how much they mean to you**. Remember – apologizing isn't about making yourself feel better but the person you hurt. Say something like: 'You're my best friend. I never want to lose our friendship.' 'I really enjoy working with you. I'd hate it if we couldn't get along.' 'You're the love of my life. You mean everything to me.'

**These six simple steps** won't work, however, without one vital ingredient: sincerity and **heartfelt thanks**. An insincere apology is not an apology at all. Above all else, be sincere.

# Email:

Hi, Jane.

Do you remember that company dinner I told you I had to go to? Well, it was last night, and you're not going to believe what happened.

The restaurant was really **stylish**, and all the waiters were dressed in black and white. There were flowers and wine – you name it! It was probably as nice as the place where Susan got married last month.

The food was amazing. I had **prawn[prɔːn]** 对虾 cocktail for an **appetizer**. The **prawn** 对虾were huge and tasted like sweet, expensive candy. I then had the pepper steak with vegetables. **The steak was really peppery**胡椒味的, the vegetables were fresh and **crunchy**鲜脆的, and they came with this really **aromatic** [ærə'mætɪk] 芳香的white **sauce**. And then dessert: chocolate mousse! It was incredible. No, more than incredible – like **a dream dessert**, so good it couldn't possibly be real. Every mouthful was like soft, sweet velvet.

And then Chris walked in. With his new girlfriend. And they sat down at the table next to ours. I was only halfway through my chocolate mousse. Suddenly, it tasted bitter in my mouth. I couldn't finish it. My boss asked me what was wrong. Of course, I couldn't tell him. How awkward! Everyone wanted to go to a club after dinner, but I made my excuses and went home. I was in bed by 10 p.m. Poor me! Talk to you soon.

**//pawn shop: [经] 当铺 prawn: [prɔːn] 对虾，明虾:** shrimp-like decapod crustacean having two pairs of **pincers**镊子; 钳子; most are edible  **//clam: clam chowder**

# Writing

**=> Consider SWOT: strength V.S. weakness; Opportunity V.S. threat (like a coin with two side, pros and cons; advantages V.S. downsides)**

Write about an awkward situation. You can write about a personal experience or something that happened to someone you know. Try to be as **descriptive** as possible, and create a clear picture for your reader. Type in the input box. Write 150-200 words.

My case: e.g. Blind date

One of the most awkward things I've ever done happened in my first **blind date** several years ago. That guy and I agreed to have a dinner in a **stylish** French restaurant. I felt a little nervous and shy when meeting him in the table. After short **small talks,** we ordered appetizer, food and desserts. Then I had an excuse and went to the lady's room to **fresh me up.** Next, the embarrassing moment came. After I went out of the restroom, I forgot where our table is. **What is worse,** I cannot even recognize that boy's face. **To be honest,** **even though** we've exchanged each other's selfie, I was still a little shocked by the different appearance when we met just now, totally distinct body shape, face look, hair style. **Moreover**, I didn't take my cell phone **on hand** that should be my **last recourse.** Therefore, I got absolutely lost in the dark space although there were few romantic light beams that didn't help at all. I felt so dizzy. Eventually, sarcastically I spot my table by **discerning** the special appetizer we ordered. It was such a disgrace and was thoroughly awkward.

# CNN topics