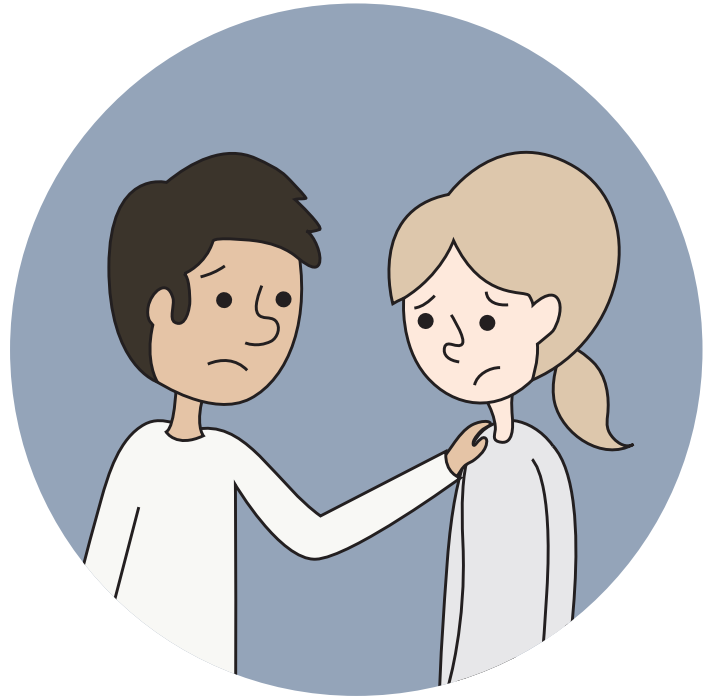


Offering Sympathy

Warm-Up

I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS

Sympathy is a shared feeling of sadness. You offer sympathy to a person after a loss or disappointment or during a difficult time. Work with your class to brainstorm a list of situations that require people to offer sympathy to others.



Offering Condolences

Read the dialogue, and practice with a partner.

A: How is your grandfather doing?

B: He passed away this morning.

A: Oh no. I'm so sorry for your loss.

B: Thank you. He was very special to me.

A: He was a great man. Please offer my condolences to your mom and grandma.

B: I will. Thank you.

Using Appropriate Language

Here are some ways to offer condolences in person:

- I'm sorry for your loss.
- I'm so sorry to hear about *Ivan*.
- I'm sorry to hear about *your uncle's* passing.
- I was very sorry to hear that *your grandmother* passed away.
- I'm very sorry about *Ana*. Please offer my condolences to *the family*.

Note:

Death is a sensitive subject.
Some words are more appropriate than others.

Use "deceased" for "dead."

- Her husband is deceased.

Use "passed away" for "died."

- She passed away in her sleep.

Offering Condolences in Person

A. Speaking Practice

Practice the dialogue with a partner.

- A: I'm sorry to hear about Daisy.
 B: Thanks. She was a great dog.
 A: How old was she?
 B: She was only three.
 A: Aw. That's too young. Was she sick?
 B: No. She got hit by a car.
 A: Oh no. I'm so sorry to hear that.
 B: Thanks. The vet said she didn't suffer.
 A: That's a blessing.
 Let me know if there's anything I can do.
 B: Thanks. I appreciate it.

B. Writing & Speaking Practice

Work with a partner. Write a similar dialogue about the loss of a pet. Practice it.

- A: I'm sorry to hear about your _____.
 (type of pet)
 B: Thanks. She was a _____ pet.
 (adjective)
 A: How old was she?
 B: She was _____.
 (age)
 A: Was she sick?
 B: Yes, she had _____.
 (type of illness)
 A: I'm so sorry to hear that.
 B: Thanks. I miss her, but she had a good life.
 A: That's nice to know. I'm here if you need anything.
 B: _____.
 (expression of gratitude)

C. Matching

Match the phrases on the left with the phrases on the right to complete the expression.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _____ 1. I am very sorry for your | a) and your family. |
| _____ 2. My heart goes out to you | b) are with you. |
| _____ 3. Our thoughts and prayers | c) my condolences to your dad. |
| _____ 4. Let me know if there is | d) anything I can do. |
| _____ 5. Please offer | e) about your brother. |
| _____ 6. I was saddened to hear | f) loss. |

Offering Condolences in Writing

A. Sympathy Cards

Sometimes you cannot be there in person to offer sympathy. Purchase a sympathy/bereavement card and write a personal note inside. Here are some simple steps to follow:

1. Use a formal address to begin your note.
 - Dear _____ ,
2. Acknowledge the loss.
 - I'm so sorry for your loss.
 - I heard about your husband's passing.
 - We heard that your grandmother passed away.
3. Say something personal about the loss.
 - _____ was such a kind/gentle/friendly person.
 - I will miss _____ dearly. She was a wonderful colleague.
 - I'll never forget when _____ taught me to _____ .
4. Offer sympathy and support.
 - My heart goes out to you and your family members at this difficult time.
 - Please accept my/our condolences.
 - Please accept my sincere sympathy.
 - Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
 - We are praying for your peace and comfort.
 - Let me/us know if there is anything I/we can do.
 - I am here if you need anything.
5. Sign off with comforting words.
 - Thinking of you,
 - Warm regards,
 - With deepest sympathy,
 - Sending hugs,
6. Sign your name or family members' first names for close friends and family. Include your last name if you are only acquaintances.

B. Writing Practice

Practice writing a sympathy note.

Dear _____ ,
(bereaved)

(sign-off)

(your name)

Other Types of Sympathy

A. Disappointments & Difficult Times

There are many other situations that require sympathy besides the death of a loved one. Here are some examples. Add some more examples to the list.

- the loss of a job
- an illness
- a natural disaster
- an accident
- a change in a relationship status
- a bad test result
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

B. Appropriate Body Language

When offering any type of sympathy in person, it is useful to use appropriate body language.

- make eye contact when acknowledging a loss or sadness
- hug or extend a hand (only for close friends and relatives)
- stand close to the bereaved or sad person
- show respect by not laughing or chatting with others nearby about other subjects
- listen carefully to anything the person says
- leave with a sympathetic smile

C. Listening Practice

Listen to the following dialogues and answer the question: *What happened?*

Dialogue 1

A: I heard about your aunt's test results. I'm so sorry.
B: Thanks. Yeah, it wasn't the news we were hoping for.

Dialogue 2

A: How did your driving test go?
B: Not good. I have to take it again.
A: Oh, that's too bad. You'll pass next time.

Dialogue 3

A: Didn't you go on vacation?
B: We had to cancel our trip.
There is a hurricane coming.
A: I'm so sorry to hear that.
You must be so disappointed.

Dialogue 4

A: How was the interview?
B: Okay, but I didn't get the job.
A: Aw. That's too bad. I was thinking of you yesterday.

Dialogue 5

A: Did your team win on Monday?
B: No, we lost.
A: Oh no! That was an important game, wasn't it?
B: Yes. We're out of the play-offs.
A: I'm very sorry to hear that. Better luck next year.

D. Speaking Practice

Now choose one of the conversations from Part C and change a few of the details. Perform the dialogue for the class.

Review

Task 1

LISTEN & RESPOND

Listen to the expressions of sympathy. What happened?
Write the loss, disappointment, or situation that occurred.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Task 2

MATCH THE WORDS & MEANINGS

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right
to demonstrate your understanding of words from this lesson.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. sympathy | a) to be thankful for |
| _____ 2. condolences | b) sad due to the death of a loved one |
| _____ 3. acquaintance | c) words of sympathy following a death |
| _____ 4. appreciate | d) words of comfort offered during a difficult time |
| _____ 5. bereaved | e) dead |
| _____ 6. deceased | f) the opposite of what one planned or hoped for |
| _____ 7. loved one | g) a family member or close friend |
| _____ 8. disappointment | h) thankfulness |
| _____ 9. comforting | i) bringing good feelings such as peace and love |
| _____ 10. gratitude | j) someone you know but do not have a close relationship with |

Task 3

Use one of the following prompts to write a sympathy note to a colleague. Put a check mark (✓) next to the prompt that you choose.

Prompts

- _____ 1. her pet died
- _____ 2. his grandparent died
- _____ 3. he was in a car accident and broke a limb
- _____ 4. she failed an important exam
- _____ 5. he lost his job

[illegible]



Learner Reflection

OFFERING SYMPATHY

Add check marks (✓) to show what you've learned in this lesson.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Can I...	Yes (very well) 	Yes (with help) 	Not yet 
use appropriate language to offer condolences?			
accept condolences from others?			
write a sympathy note for a variety of reasons?			
express disappointment or sadness?			
offer comforting words to a person experiencing difficult times?			
use appropriate body language around a person experiencing difficult times?			

My Notes