

The Disaster Dinner Party

Making and Accepting Apologies

PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- When was the last time you had to say sorry to a friend?
- Is it easy or difficult for you to apologize? Why?
- What is the best way to respond when someone says "My bad"?

PART 02 The Scenario

You are a group of three friends meeting for coffee the day after a "Disaster Dinner Party." Last night, several things went wrong: the food was burnt, someone arrived two hours late, a glass of red wine was spilled on a white rug, and one friend missed the party entirely because they were in the hospital. You need to clear the air, apologize for what happened, and show sympathy for the friend who was ill.

The Incident List:

1. The Main Course: Burnt and inedible.
2. The White Rug: Stained with red wine.
3. The Birthday Gift: One person forgot it was the host's birthday.
4. The Hospital: One friend was absent due to a sudden minor injury.

THE TASK & GOAL

Discuss the events of the party and ensure everyone feels better by the end of the conversation.

1. Meet with your friends and bring up the specific problems from last night.
2. Offer sincere apologies for your specific mistakes.
3. Respond to apologies using appropriate phrases to show forgiveness.
4. Express sympathy to the friend who was in the hospital.
5. Plan a "make-up" dinner where nothing goes wrong.

ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

A: THE HOST

You worked hard on the dinner, but you burnt the food. You are also upset about the wine stain on your rug, but you want to be a good friend.

B: THE CLUMSY GUEST

You arrived late because you forgot the time. You also spilled the red wine on the rug. You feel awful about both things.

C: THE RECOVERING GUEST

You missed the party because you were in the hospital with a sprained ankle. You feel bad for missing the host's birthday.

REFERENCE Useful Language

MAKING APOLOGIES	ACCEPTING APOLOGIES	EXPRESSING SYMPATHY
I'm really sorry I...	No worries!	I was sorry to hear...
I've messed up, sorry!	It'll come out in the wash.	I'm sorry to hear you've been...
I owe you an apology.	No big deal!	I appreciate you saying that.
My bad! / I feel awful.	That's okay, it was nothing.	Thanks, that means a lot.

PLANNING & NOTES

Plan your dialogue here

PART 03 Reflection

1. Who gave the most sincere apology in your group? What made it sound sincere?
2. Which phrase for accepting an apology do you think is the most useful for daily life?

The Disaster Dinner Party

Target language practice.



TIME

30 MINS

OBJECTIVE

To practice making/accepting apologies and expressing sympathy in a multi-layered social context.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

PRESENT PERFECT AND GERUNDS FOR APOLOGIZING

- I'm sorry for spilling the wine
- I've messed up the main course
- I'm sorry to hear you've been unwell.

KEY VOCABULARY

MESSED UP

MY BAD

NO BIG DEAL

OWE AN APOLOGY

APPRECIATE

Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask the class for examples of "social disasters" (e.g., spilling a drink at a wedding). Write "Apologizing" and "Accepting" on the board and elicit a few phrases.
2. **The Task (15 mins):** Put students in groups of three. Assign roles A, B, and C. Monitor the groups, ensuring they use the "Incident List" to trigger their apologies. Encourage them to use the phrases from the Useful Language Box.
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Ask one or two groups to perform a 1-minute snippet of their "reconciliation." Highlight good use of the target language. Correct any common errors regarding "sorry for" vs "sorry to."