

APOLOGISING AND ACCEPTING APOLOGIES

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for saying sorry and responding kindly

Conversation: Returning a marked book

Ruby	I'm sorry. I spilled tea on the book you lent me. The corner of a few pages is stained.
Jack	Oh, let me see. Is it still readable?
Ruby	Yes, but it doesn't look as nice. It was my fault. I left my mug too close to it.
Jack	That's OK. I mainly keep it for the recipes, and I can still read those.
Ruby	Are you sure? I'd like to buy you another copy.
Jack	Don't worry. It's an old book, and several pages were marked already.
Ruby	Thanks for being so kind about it. I'll keep drinks away from borrowed books next time.
Jack	That would help. And you can still borrow it when you want to make the soup again.

Key phrases: I'm sorry. / It was my fault. / That's OK. / Don't worry.

Conversation: Interrupting a rehearsal

Mia	Sorry I walked into your rehearsal. I didn't mean to interrupt; I thought the room was empty.
Leo	No problem. We were just finishing a scene, so it wasn't a bad moment.
Mia	I should have knocked. I was looking for the bag I left here after class.
Leo	It's by the piano. We moved it so nobody would trip over it.
Mia	Thanks. Did I ruin the recording when I opened the door?
Leo	A little, but we needed another try anyway. You don't need to feel bad.
Mia	All right. I'll take my bag and leave you to it. Good luck with the next try.
Leo	Thanks. Just pull the door closed gently on your way out.

Key phrases: I didn't mean to / No problem.

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Apologise for accidentally damaging something borrowed. Discuss the damage and an appropriate response.

Prompt 2: Apologise for interrupting an activity. Check the impact and respond kindly without dismissing the situation.