

I'm sorry I ruined your party

LEARNING OUTCOME

learn how to apologise and respond to an apology

Everyday life

1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where are the people and what are they doing?

What do you think they are talking about?



Everyday vocabulary

2 Look at these phrases. Match the words and expressions in *italics* (1–10) with their meanings (a–j).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I'd like to <i>apologise</i> for arriving late. | a wrong to behave in that way |
| 2 I <i>didn't mean</i> to offend you. | b inconsiderate |
| 3 It was <i>thoughtless</i> of me. | c not a problem |
| 4 I <i>messed up</i> | d upset you |
| 5 I didn't mean to <i>hurt your feelings</i> | e say sorry |
| 6 I really don't know <i>what came over me</i> | f behaved unreasonably |
| 7 I was <i>out of line</i> | g why I behaved like that |
| 8 I <i>went too far</i> | h do something good to make you feel better |
| 9 How can I <i>make it up to you</i> ? | i didn't intend |
| 10 It's <i>no big deal</i> | j did something wrong |

3 Which phrases in 2 are more formal and which are less formal? Think of other ways of apologising or responding to an apology and add them to the list.

Dialogue

4 05 Tom did something silly at Katy's birthday party at the weekend. It's Monday morning, and he wants to say sorry. Listen to the dialogue. What is Tom going to do for Katy?

5 Listen again and complete the sentences with the correct words. Then listen again and check.

- 1 Katy,
- 2 Well, maybe. Anyway,
- 3 I know. It was really stupid of me.
- 4 I know. I shouldn't have spoken to you like that.
- 5 I really am very sorry, you know, Katy. I feel terrible.
- 6 I really don't know what came over me.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: APOLOGISING AND RESPONDING TO AN APOLOGY

Look at the phrases (a–g) from the dialogue. Put them under the correct headings below.

- a I didn't mean to hurt your feelings.
- b I really am very sorry, you know.
- c I shouldn't have spoken to you like that.
- d I'm really sorry if I ruined your party.
- e It was really stupid of me.
- f It's no big deal.
- g We all make mistakes.

Apologising

Admit you did something wrong

Responding to apologies

6 Work in pairs. Listen to the dialogue again. Which speaker does these things? Circle the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 apologises sincerely | Tom / Katy / both |
| 2 gives reasons why he / she was upset | Tom / Katy / both |
| 3 takes responsibility for his / her actions | Tom / Katy / both |
| 4 gives reasons for his / her behaviour | Tom / Katy / both |
| 5 tries to make the other person feel better | Tom / Katy / both |

Over to you!

7 You are going to write an email apologising for something you did wrong. Follow the steps below. Use the expressions in the Everyday English Toolkit.

Step 1: Think about something you did wrong in the last week. If you can't think of anything, invent something! For example, you were rude to your parents; you forgot to send your grandma a birthday present; you told a friend you didn't like their new hairstyle; you didn't do some group work in class which the other members of the group had to do.

Step 2: Think about how to apologise.

Step 3: Write your email.