

Name: _____

Date: _____



CLB 5/6: Two Historic Apologies

In this module, you will listen to a Canadian mom talk about how she teaches her children to apologize. You will then listen to two formal apologies to a group of people in Alberta and Canada. You will learn how to make apologies sound sincere, and you will have a chance to practise making formal apologies.

Activity 1: Warm-up

Follow your teacher's instructions to discuss the following questions:

1. From the perspective of your home culture, do Canadians apologize too much?
2. When should people apologize?
3. When should countries or organizations apologize?
4. In your culture of origin, how do you show that you are really sorry for something?
5. What effects can an apology have? Can an apology fix anything?
6. What makes an apology sound **sincere**?
7. What makes an apology sound **insincere**?
8. What English apology words and phrases do you know?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident do you feel apologizing in English? (0=not at all confident; 10=just as confident as in my first language)
10. Do you (or would you) teach your child to apologize? How?

Vocabulary Focus

Here are some synonyms of **sincere**: truthful, honest, **genuine**, real, heartfelt, wholehearted, “from the heart.”

What do you think **insincere** means? Can you think of any synonyms of insincere?

Discuss: How important is sincerity in apologies?

Activity 2: A Canadian Mom Talks About Apologies

Instructions: Listen **two times** to a Canadian mom talk about how she wants her children to apologize. As you listen, answer the questions below.

1. Why does this mom **not** make her children apologize right away?

2. This mom wants her kids to think about four things before they apologize. Complete the list below:

1) What, **specifically**, they did _____

2) How their _____ made the other person _____

3) What they will _____ and what _____ they will use

4) What they could do _____ next time

3. The Canadian mom says that her children are really good at apologizing. What are three criteria that she thinks are important for a good apology?

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. What apology language does she use in her example?

- _____ I threw my sister's laundry out the front door when I was mad at her.
- _____ used my words to ask her to take her laundry out of the dryer so I could use it.

5. Do you think this mom ever apologizes to her children? Why?

Discussion Questions

6. What do you think the Canadian mom means when she says she wants the apology to be “soft”?
7. Why do you think it is important to the Canadian mom to teach her children to apologize?

Dale is the parent of a five-year-old. They are at a playground. There is a toddler nearby playing peacefully. Dale’s child grabs the toddler’s toys and knocks down the toddler’s “castle.” The child throws sand in the air, and it gets in the toddler’s eyes. The toddler is crying. The toddler’s mother is upset.

8. Imagine that you are Dale. Would you make your child apologize? If no, why not? If yes, how?
9. Model an apology that would satisfy the Canadian mom we listened to.

Activity 3: Listen to a Historic Apology – Ottawa, 2017

Instructions: You will listen to a very formal apology by Justin Trudeau. Before you listen, predict the following:

1. **Who** do you think he will apologize **to**?

2. **What** do you think he will apologize **for**?

3. Will he will apologize **on his own behalf** or **on behalf of** someone else?

Part 1: Listen for the Gist

4. Who is he apologizing **on behalf of**?

5. Who is he apologizing **to**?

6. What is he apologizing **for**?

Focus on Vocabulary

7. Match the following words with their meanings below:

to fail someone	shame	sorrow	regret
_____	A strong feeling that we are bad because of something we did wrong		
_____	To not live up to our responsibilities to someone		
_____	A feeling of wishing something had not happened the way it did		
_____	Deep sadness because of suffering or loss		

Focus on Intonation and Stress

The number one job of any government is to keep its citizens safe. And on this we have failed LGBTQ2 communities and individuals time and time again. It is with shame and sorrow and deep regret for the things we have done that I stand here today and say, "We were wrong. We apologize. I am sorry. We are sorry."

8. Listen again and underline the syllables or words that are stressed. Mark the pauses (/). Mark the intonation pattern as rising or falling.
9. Why does he use rising intonation for parts of the apology?

10. Why does he use falling intonation at the end of each sentence? What is the effect of the falling intonation?

Discuss

11. Is this a serious matter to Justin Trudeau? How do you know?

12. Do you think he is **sincere**? Why or why not?

13. Do you think his apology will fix anything? Why or why not?

14. He explains more about what he is sorry for related to the LGBTQ2 community. What do you think he will say?

Part 2: Listen for Details

After the first and formal part of his apology, the prime minister gave more details about **who** he was apologizing **to** and **what** he was apologizing **for**.

<p>15. Listen first to learn more about who he is apologizing to. Write down two or three details and share what you heard with a classmate.</p>	<p>16. Listen again to learn more about what he is apologizing for. Write down two or three details and share what you heard with a classmate.</p>
<p>Words you want to learn:</p>	

Part 3: Listen and Think

You will now listen to the last 45 seconds of the apology.

17. This is the end of his apology. How does Justin Trudeau show that he is taking this very seriously?

18. Why doesn't he just say "LGBTQ2S" community?

19. What is Justin Trudeau's goal? Why did he make this public apology?

Focus on Vocabulary for Talking About the LGBTQ+ Community

When describing people, it is important to avoid words that cause offence to a community. Instead, it shows respect to talk about people using words that those people identify with.

For example, the word "Eskimo" was used in the past to describe the Inuit people in Canada. That word is no longer used. We show respect by using that community's own word to describe them: Inuit.

In the past, words such as "homosexual" and "transvestite" were used, along with many negative insults. Those words now have negative connotations and are not used by the LGBTQ+ community. The following are words that people in the LGBTQ+ community use to describe themselves. Do you know what they mean?

lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer two-spirit

20. Work with a partner to match the bolded words to the definitions below. Check your answers with your instructor.

lesbian **gay** **bisexual** **transgender** **queer** **two-spirit**

- _____ A person who is physically and emotionally attracted to both males and females
- _____ A person who does not identify either fully or in part with the gender connected to the sex assigned to them at birth; often used as an umbrella term to represent a wide range of gender identities and expressions
- _____ A female who is attracted physically and emotionally to other females
- _____ A person who is physically and emotionally attracted to someone of the same sex; commonly used to describe males only, but many women use this term, too
- _____ An Indigenous term used to identify people who are sexual minorities; historically, these individuals were respected leaders and medicine people and were given special status because they could see both male and female perspectives
- _____ An umbrella term for sexual minorities; historically a negative term, but now used by the sexual minority community when referring to themselves

Focus on Intonation and Stress

For the oppression of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and two-spirit communities, we apologize.

On behalf of the government, Parliament, and the people of Canada: We were wrong. We are sorry. And we will never let this happen again.

21. Listen to this section again and underline the syllables or words that are stressed. Mark the intonation pattern and pauses that are used to make the apology sound sincere.

22. Where does he use intonation that shows he hasn't finished his thought?

23. Where does he use intonation to show that he is very sincere and certain?

Activity 4: Listen to Another Historic Apology – Edmonton, 2019

Vocabulary Focus

1. Before you listen, match the bolded words with the definitions below.

unsafe **barrier** **fundamental right** **permissible** **erase**
beacon **homophobia** **transphobia** **marginalization** **shaming**
disrespect **members** (of the public/of the service/of the community)

- _____ To not be safe
- _____ People who belong to a group
- _____ A basic human right
- _____ To be allowed
- _____ To destroy or delete
- _____ A bright light; something to aim for
- _____ Fear of homosexual people
- _____ Fear of transgender people
- _____ The act of keeping people out of the general community
- _____ Humiliating
- _____ To treat someone without respect
- _____ An obstacle that keeps a person from going somewhere or getting something

Hint: Are there any hints in the words that can help you remember the meanings?

Listen for Gist and Details

Listen as Dale McFee makes a formal apology and answer the questions below:

- Who is he apologizing **to**? _____
- Who is this apology **on behalf of**? _____
- What is he apologizing **for**? _____

- What is Dale McFee's job? _____

Listen for Apology Language

- Listen again and write down the apologizing language you hear:

Make inferences

- This apology was in the middle of a much longer speech. What do you think came **before** the apology?

- What do you think he talked about **after** the apology? That is, if his speech stopped here, what would be missing?

9. How does he show that he is apologizing for a serious offence? How does he show that he is sincere?

10. Do public apologies from government and organizations make any difference? Brainstorm for possible effects of this kind of apology.

Effects for the LGBTQ+ community	Effects for the Edmonton Police Service	Effects for the general community

Activity 5: Your Turn – Apologize!

Instructions: On the next page are five different scenarios. With a partner, role-play making formal and sincere apologies in the roles described.

Ask your partner whether or not you sounded sincere.

- Did I give enough detail to sound sincere?
 - Was it clear what I was apologizing for?
 - Did I show that I understood how my actions affected the person I was apologizing to?
- Did I use apology language to sound sincere?
- Did my intonation sound sincere and soft?
- Did my facial expression look sincere?
- Did the formality of my tone match the offence (i.e., not too formal or informal)?
- Did I avoid making excuses?
- Would you still be angry after listening to me? If yes, is there anything I could change that would make my apology more effective?

Assessment: Make a recording of yourself making a formal apology. You may use one of the scenarios given or give a different apology.

- For instance, you could imagine that you were a government official or the head of an organization and make an apology to a different marginalized community.

Submit your recording to your instructor. The instructor will evaluate the recording on criteria that are similar to the “Did I ...?” questions above.

Apology Scenarios

<p>Pat is 50 years old and is visiting their childhood town. Pat bumps into Les, a classmate from high school. Les said, "I remember how you and your friends made life awful for me when I was in school." Pat thinks back to that time and remembers XXXXX.</p> <p>Pretend you are Pat. Make a formal apology to Les.</p>	<p>Kelly downloaded a paper from the Internet when she ran out of time on her assignment. The teacher sent an email asking her to come and talk about the paper. Kelly knows what the teacher is going to say, and she is ashamed of cheating.</p> <p>Pretend you are Kelly. Try to apologize in a way that shows you are very sincere.</p>
<p>Dana and a roommate are renting a relative's house. They left town for the weekend. When they got back, they found that they had left the kitchen sink running with the plug in the drain! The hardwood floor is soaked. It looks terrible.</p> <p>Pretend you are Dana. Phone your friend. Try to apologize in a way that shows you are very sincere and feel terrible about what happened.</p>	<p>Alex is very, very messy and never cleans up. Yesterday, Alex used their roommate's laptop without permission and spilled coffee on it. [Add other details if you wish.] The laptop still works, but the roommate is very angry.</p> <p>Pretend you are Alex. You know that you have behaved badly, and you really want to change. Apologize in a way that shows you are sincere.</p>
<p>Glen is in a language class. There is one person in the class that everyone thinks is strange. They treat the person with disrespect [add details]. The teacher has told them that the classmate is planning to quit the program. Glen and the rest of the students in the class regret their actions.</p> <p>Pretend you are Glen. Call to apologize to the classmate. [Note: You will need to create the details.]</p>	<p>Think of your own scenario:</p>

Activity 6: Vocabulary Review

The following are words that you studied in this module. They are categorized according to their part of speech. Do you know how to use these words?

Hint: If not, go to **youglish.com**. Type the words into the search bar. Press the green forward arrow to listen to the word being used in YouTube videos. Skip through a number of videos to hear how the word is used. (Note: This doesn't work with "to fail.")



Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives	LGBTQ+
to fail (someone)	members (of ...)	sincere	lesbian (n)
to erase	shame	insincere	gay (adj)
	sorrow	heartfelt	bisexual (adj)
	regret	wholehearted	transgender (adj)
	disrespect	unsafe	queer (adj)
	shaming	permissible	two-spirit (adj)
	homophobia	fundamental	LGBTQ+, LGBTQ2S+ (adj)
	transphobia	homophobic	
	barriers	transphobic	
	marginalization		
	beacon		
	big deal		

Instructions: Use the words on the previous page to complete the sentences below. Your knowledge of the apologies will help you. The part of speech is given in the first sentence as a hint. Think about what part of speech you are looking for in the other sentences. In some cases, there is more than one right answer.

1. The politician felt _____ (*n*), _____ (*n*), and _____ (*n*) because police actions in the past had made LGBTQ2S+ people feel _____ (*adj*).
2. He felt that the police had _____ that community.
3. Instead of helping a marginalized community, they had raised _____ for that group.
4. To him, this was a very _____ .
5. He made a _____ apology to _____ of the LGBTQ2S+ community for how they had been treated.
6. He said that everyone has the _____ right to feel safe.
7. No one should be treated with _____ .
8. He stated that the following things are no longer _____ in the community or in the police service:
_____, _____,
_____.
9. Although this apology cannot change what happened in the past, some people in the _____ and _____ community feel that the apology is a _____ of hope that things will be different in the future.

Activity 7: Application and Reflection

Instructions: As you write or discuss the answers to the following questions, try to use the vocabulary from Activity 6.

1. What did you learn about making apologies in English?
2. Do you feel more confident that you can apologize in English in a way that sounds sincere? Is this skill important to you?
3. What did you learn about the LGBTQ+ community in Canada?
4. What did you learn about Canadian culture?

Extension Activity 1: Do a Google search of “Canada apologizes” to find articles and videos about other formal apologies made on behalf of the government of Canada.

Extension Activity 2: Do Canadians apologize too much? Read about the Apology Act—a law that protects Canadians (e.g., drivers, medical professionals) who apologize even when they are not at fault.

Extension Activity 3: Does Justin Trudeau apologize too much on behalf of Canada? Justin Trudeau’s father, Pierre Trudeau, was also prime minister of Canada. However, he refused to apologize on behalf of Canada to Japanese Canadians who were interned during World War II. Do an Internet search to find out why. Which Trudeau do you agree with more?

References

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