

Owning Mistakes Answer Key

Sample Responses:

1. Strengths: Tries to show empathy. Weaknesses: Avoids responsibility and shifts focus to the other person.
2. Strengths: Honest, takes ownership, offers a plan to improve. Weaknesses: None significant.
3. Strengths: Acknowledges a problem. Weaknesses: Defensive tone, lacks accountability.
4. Strengths: Sincere and responsible, includes a plan for future behavior. Weaknesses: None significant.
5. Strengths: Polite language. Weaknesses: "If" weakens the apology and avoids direct accountability.
6. Strengths: Takes responsibility and suggests action to fix it. Weaknesses: Slightly formal, but effective.
7. Strengths: None significant. Weaknesses: Defensive and dismissive, lacks sincerity.

Teacher's Guide

Skill Focus: Strengthening emotional intelligence by identifying qualities of sincere versus insincere apologies and understanding accountability in communication.

Differentiation Tips:

- Read each apology aloud and discuss tone, emphasizing how word choice affects meaning.
- Use a color-coding system for visual learners (e.g., green for positive traits, red for weak areas).
- Allow oral or written responses depending on ability level.

Extension Activities:

- Have students write their own apology for a fictional or real situation, then peer-review for sincerity.
- Create a "Strong Apology Checklist" with class input, listing features like honesty, empathy, and responsibility.