

## Words That Care Answer Key

### Empathetic Rewrite Example:

**Liam:** I didn't realize that upset you so much. You worked really hard on that project.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I just wanted people to notice the effort I put in.

**Liam:** That makes sense. I noticed how organized and detailed your part was.

**Taylor:** Thanks, that really means a lot.

### Reflection Answers (Examples):

1. The new version sounds caring, calm, and understanding instead of cold or dismissive.
2. Phrases like "I didn't realize," "That makes sense," and "You worked really hard" show empathy.
3. Responding with empathy helps others feel valued, supported, and respected.

### Teacher's Guide

- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - Allow students to role-play the dialogue before rewriting to build comprehension.
  - Provide empathy sentence starters (e.g., "I understand how you feel," "That must be hard," "I see why you're upset").
  - Offer verbal response options for students who struggle with writing.
- **Engagement Strategies:**
  - Let students work in pairs to compare their rewritten dialogues.
  - Discuss how tone of voice and word choice change the message's impact.
  - Encourage a brief reflection on times they've received empathy and how it felt.
- **Extension Ideas:**
  - Have students write a new short dialogue from their own experience that shows empathy.
  - Record or perform both versions (harsh vs. empathetic) and discuss audience reactions.
  - Connect this lesson to digital communication by having students rewrite text messages to sound more understanding.