

Name _____



Empathy Vs. Sympathy

Directions: Read the short explanation and examples below. Then fill in the blanks to show how empathy and sympathy are different. Use your own words when you can.

Understanding the Two

Empathy and sympathy both involve caring about others, but they are not the same. **Empathy** means you *feel with* someone - you imagine what they are feeling and understand it deeply. **Sympathy** means you *feel for* someone - you notice their pain and may feel sorry for them, but you are not sharing the feeling yourself.

- **Example 1:** When your friend fails a test and you say, "I know how that feels. I failed one last week too. Want to study together next time?" - that is **empathy**.
- **Example 2:** When your friend fails a test and you say, "I'm sorry that happened. That must be tough," - that is **sympathy**.

1. Empathy means I try to _____ what someone else is feeling.
2. Sympathy means I _____ for someone but may not share their emotion.
3. When I show empathy, I might say, "_____."
4. When I show sympathy, I might say, "_____."
5. One difference between empathy and sympathy is _____
_____.
6. A real-world example of empathy is when _____
_____.
7. A real-world example of sympathy is when _____
_____.