

## Soccer Struggles Answer Key

### Sample Strong Student Response:

"Dear Eli, don't give up on soccer just yet! Try practicing outside of team practice, maybe by working on passing or dribbling with a friend or even against a wall. You can also watch tutorials or ask your coach for drills to do at home. If your teammates see you improving and staying positive, they'll start to notice your effort and respect your determination. Remember, confidence grows with practice, and every athlete improves by working hard."

### Teacher Notes:

- Strong answers should include **at least two realistic suggestions** (e.g., extra practice, asking for help, setting goals, staying positive).
- Look for tone: advice should be **encouraging, supportive, and problem-solving** rather than negative or dismissive.
- Encourage students to apply their **real-world knowledge** (sports, teamwork, persistence) to the situation.
- Extension idea: Let students share their advice in small groups and discuss which tips could help them in their own lives.