

Sorry! 道歉的价值!

Vocabulary: apology 词汇: 道歉

Is 'sorry' the hardest word? Not for the British Education Secretary Michael Gove, who has **apologised** recently to his former French teacher for **misbehaving** in class.

It took him 30 years to express **regret** for, as he said, competing with his classmates to ask "**clever-dick questions**" and indulging in "**pathetic** showing off".

In a letter published in a magazine, Mr Gove says: "It may be too late to say I'm sorry. But, as my mum told me, it's never too late **to set the record straight.**"

It seems **contrite** politicians are in fashion. A recent apology on video by the deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, has become **a hit** on the internet.

Mr Clegg wanted the electorate **to forgive** him for having **broken his word** and not voting against increases in student tuition fees. But a satirical website added music to the track. It is difficult to be sure if the apology was **heartfelt** or **insincere**, but it turned out to be **a catchy tune.**

Researchers suggest that people have too high an **expectation** of the power of saying sorry. Dutch psychologist David De Cremer and his colleagues say in a study published in Psychological Science that receiving an apology isn't as **healing** as people like to think.

Nevertheless, apologies might be an important social tool as they **reaffirm** the existence of rules that need to be observed.

In Britain, the word sorry is often said and heard. If you step on someone else's toe by chance you have to apologise but the person whose foot was squashed has to do it too. It conveys the idea that none of you is left with **hard feelings.**

The Education Secretary's apology might have gone down well with his old teacher but it might land him in trouble. According to the Daily Mail newspaper, Mr Gove's mother didn't know he was causing trouble at school and said: "He would have been strung up if I had known he was being so **cheeky.**"

"I can never get in touch with him these days - it just goes through to his **answering machine** - but when I do eventually speak to him, I'll give him a good **telling off.**"

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分



Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How has Mr Gove apologised to his former teacher?
2. Who has become a hit on the internet?
3. Look at the article. What is the social purpose of apologies?
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? *Mr Gove's mother was surprised when she learnt about her son's apology.*
5. Look at the article. What words are used to qualify an apology?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Johnny plans to talk to his teacher after class. He wants to set the _____ straight: he didn't cheat in his exams.

play	record	film	tune
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2. My sister keeps wearing my dresses without permission. She needs a good _____ off.

talking	answering	telling	healing
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3. Mary still visits her former boyfriend. They split up long ago and there were no _____ feelings.

catchy	clever-dick	pathetic	hard
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4. What, no money?! You promised yesterday that you would lend me some cash. You are _____ your word!

breaking	healing	misbehaving	changing
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5. When Susan cried I was convinced that her apology was _____.

cheeky	heartfelt	sorry	hard
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How has Mr Gove apologised to his former teacher? In a letter published in a magazine.
2. Who has become a hit on the internet? The British deputy prime minister Nick Clegg.
3. Look at the article. What is the social purpose of apologies? To reaffirm the existence of rules that need to be observed.
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? *Mr Gove's mother was surprised when she learnt about her son's apology.* True. Mrs Gove didn't know her son had misbehaved at school.
5. Look at the article. What words are used to qualify an apology? Heartfelt and insincere.

Exercise 练习

1. Johnny plans to talk to his teacher after class. He wants to set the record straight: he didn't cheat in his exams.
2. My sister keeps wearing my dresses without permission. She needs a good telling off.
3. Mary still visits her former boyfriend. They split up long ago but there were no hard feelings.
4. What, no money?! You promised yesterday that you would lend me some cash. You are breaking your word!
5. When Susan cried I was convinced that her apology was heartfelt.

Glossary 词汇表

to apologise	认错道歉
to misbehave	行为不当, 捣乱
to regret	后悔、悔恨
a clever-dick question	一个为了卖弄聪明的问题
pathetic	令人反感的
to set the record straight	纠正错误, 澄清问题事实
contrite	悔过自新的
a hit	一个热点
to forgive	原谅
to break (his) word	食言、失信
heartfelt	衷心的、发自内心的
insincere	不诚恳的
a catchy tune	好记的曲子
expectation	期望
healing	使情感恢复常态
to reaffirm	再肯定
hard feelings	怨恨
cheeky	调皮捣蛋的
answering machine	电话自动留言
to tell off	批评、斥责