Confusing Words

Lesson 26 | Empathy or Sympathy

Empathy EXAMPLES

Example Sentences:

I have empathy for your situation; I’ve been there.

The power of empathy is the best gift that human beings have.

Having empathy makes friendship stronger.

He has genuine empathy for his colleagues.

Tips for using Empathy

“Empathy” the feeling of understanding and sharing the feelings of another person (noun)

The team leader didn’t show any empathy when we failed our project.
Most of them don’t like Lorry because she lacks empathy.
She went abroad, so she has empathy for illegal immigrants.
When they speak about health, she always has empathy for them.

Example Dialogue:

Joy : I am so mad with Jake about what he did.
Kat : I have great empathy with your situation, Joy. I know how you feel.
Joy : I get angry with him every time we talk about faithfulness and he shows no empathy whatsoever.
Kat : I really understand you. It’s really hard to find a decent man nowadays.

DEFINITION:

EMPATHY: denotes the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person.

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Sympathy EXAMPLES

Example Sentences:

You have my utmost sympathy.
Let us support her and show sympathy.
I am a volunteer in a hospital because I have sympathy for the sick.
The whole Philippines is showing sympathy by giving donations to the typhoon victims.

Tips for using Sympathy

“Sympathy” is a feeling of pity and sorrow; agreement with or understanding (noun)
Please extend our sympathy to Patty and her family.
I would like to extend my sympathy to your daughter.
It’s hard to show them sympathy after what they did.
The judge did not show any sympathy, despite her ironclad alibis.

Example Dialogue:

Chard : I didn’t show sympathy to her allegations, that’s why she fired me.
Mel : She’s really wicked. How can she do this to you?
Chard : She doesn’t care about others. I need to move on and find another job to start a new life. I will be heading to the wake of my brother’s wife.
Mel : Please extend my sympathy to your brother, if you don’t forget.

DEFINITION:

SYMPATHY: feeling of pity and sorrow; agreement with (noun)

Sympathy
Answer **empathy** or **sympathy** (in a correct form) to complete the sentences.

1. | I hate when people can’t show an ounce of _________ for one another.

2. | Please accept my sincere _________ for the loss of your father.

3. | Most people have a hard time being acquainted with others because they lack _________.

4. | The Mayor expressed _________ for the bomb victims.

5. | I have gone through the same problem as she, which is why I have _________ for her.

6. | As a parent, I can only feel a great deal of _________ for mothers who lost their children.

7. | Tiffany thinks the world revolves around her, that’s why she can’t have _________ for others.

8. | To express his _________, Mark will often apologize even when he has done nothing wrong.

9. | I extend my _________ to your family and relatives.

10. | They offered flowers during the funeral to express their _________ to the family.

**APPLICATION:**

Create your own sentences using **empathy** or **sympathy**.
EXERCISE

Answer empathy or sympathy (in a correct form) to complete the sentences.

(Star and Lolly talk about their friend’s loss.)

Star : I have great ________ for Cary’s situation. It’s not an easy thing to suffer through the pain of hard labor and the pain of losing your child.

Lolly : I hope she can gain strength to face the problem. I know she is very weak at the moment.

Star : I hate when people do not show ________ for her situation. Most people on Facebook blame her for the loss even though they don’t know what really happened.

Lolly : Jessica is one of them. I think she only says negative things about Cary because Cary did not show ________ to her claims during the board meeting at the company.

Star : Well, all we can do now is support Cary and try to give her comfort during these hard times.

Lolly : I agree. Let’s show her our ____________.

APPLICATION:

Create your own dialogue using sympathy or empathy with your teacher.