



Informal Letter

Last week you told a lie to your cousin. Write a letter telling your cousin that you are sorry. Explain why you told the lie and how you felt afterwards.

Warm up questions:

1. Have you ever told a lie that you regretted afterwards? Did you apologize? Did the person you lied to, accept your apology?

2. How would you feel if somebody lied to you? Would you forgive them if they sincerely apologized?

3. Why do you think people sometimes lie?

Dear Mina,

How are you? _____ I feel terrible about the lie I told you last week. I'd like to _____ why I did it.

When my best friend Sara called to tell me that she was going to have a party for her birthday, I realized that your theatrical performance was on the same day. I thought I'd be able to attend both, as her party was at 7 and your performance didn't start until 9:30. but when I was at Sara's party, I **completely lost track of time**. At some point I looked at my watch and it was 9:15. I knew I wouldn't manage to get to the theatre on time with all the traffic, so I sent you a text message saying that I was ill.

After that, I felt _____ and I deeply regretted sending you that message. It was stupid and unjustifiable. _____, I know I would feel really hurt and it would be difficult for me to forgive you. I'm so sorry and I hope that you can forgive me.

Mina, I really didn't mean to offend you. _____ nothing like that will happen again!

Lots of love,

Maryam

Add these sentences to the text.

I'm writing because

terribly guilty

I promise that

apologize and explain

If I were in your shoes

Answer these questions:

1. What tense(s) and other grammatical structures have been used in the letter? Why?

2. How do we start and end an informal letter?

3. Do we express feelings?



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Answers

Warm up questions: (Possible answers)

1. Have you ever told a lie that you regretted afterwards? Did you apologize? Did the person you lied to, accept your apology?

Yes, I once lied to my best friend Elli about going to another friend's party. I was invited but Elli wasn't. I didn't want her to feel bad for not being invited, so I just kept it a secret. Of course, I felt very awful about it and regretted it deeply. I apologized, but she didn't forgive me right away. She felt hurt and lost her trust in me.

2. How would you feel if somebody lied to you? Would you forgive them if they sincerely apologized?

I would feel betrayed and very hurt. I don't know if I would forgive them. It depends on the seriousness of the lie and the relationship between us. Perhaps, I would after they did something to make it up to me in a way.

3. Why do you think people sometimes lie?

I think people sometimes lie to avoid a difficult situation, believing that this way they protect others from heartache. What they don't realize at the time, is that confronting and apologizing to someone afterwards is more difficult. They also run the risk of not being forgiven and feeling even worse.

(Accept student's possible answers.)



Dear Mina,

How are you? **I'm writing because** I feel terrible about the lie I told you last week. I'd like to **apologize and explain** why I did it.

When my best friend Sara called to tell me that she was going to have a party for her birthday, I realized that your theatrical performance was on the same day. I thought I'd be able to attend both, as her party was at 7 and your performance didn't start until 9:30. but when I was at Sara's party, I completely lost track of time. At some point I looked at my watch and it was 9:15. I knew I wouldn't manage to get to the theatre on time with all the traffic, so I sent you a text message saying that I was ill.

After that, I felt **terribly guilty** and I deeply regretted sending you that message. It was stupid and unjustifiable. **If I were in your shoes**, I know I would feel really hurt and it would be difficult for me to forgive you. I'm so sorry and I hope that you can forgive me.

Mina, I really didn't mean to offend you. **I promise that** nothing like that will happen again!

Lots of love,

Maryam



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Answer these questions:

1. What tense(s) and other grammatical structures have been used in the letter? Why?

The tense that has mainly been used is the Past Simple to refer to a past action. We also see the 2nd Conditional being used to make a hypothesis.

2. How do we start and end an informal letter?

We start the letter with “Dear Mina” and sign off with “Lots of love” etc. and our name.

3. Do we express feelings?

Yes, we express feelings when we write informal letters. We often write about our news and express emotions so that it has a friendlier approach.



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