

## *Conversation Café*

### **Apologizing**

Some cultures think that Canadians apologize too much. What do you think? Do people in your culture find it easy or difficult to apologize or does this depend on the person? Is it easy for you to apologize? Why or why not?

When Canadians apologize, they like to give a reason why, for example, "I'm sorry I'm late, the traffic was really bad."



In which of these situations would people in your country expect you to apologize to them?

- **What would you say in each case?**
- **Which of these situations are extremely rude in your country?**
- **Which of these situations are rude in your country but not a big problem in Canada?**

1. You arrive late at a meeting.
2. You arrive late for school.
3. You arrive late for dinner at someone's house.
4. You interrupt someone who is talking.
5. You have forgotten something you were supposed to bring.
6. You phone someone after 10:00 p.m.
7. You walk into, touch or bump someone accidentally.
8. You break something that does not belong to you.
9. You burp or make other rude noises when talking to a friend or during a meeting.
10. You want to stop your conversation with someone on the telephone.
11. You make somebody very sad or upset.
12. You yawn or sneeze.
13. You forget a friend's birthday.
14. You spill a big cup of coffee all over someone.
15. You must tell your friends that you cannot go with them to the movie.

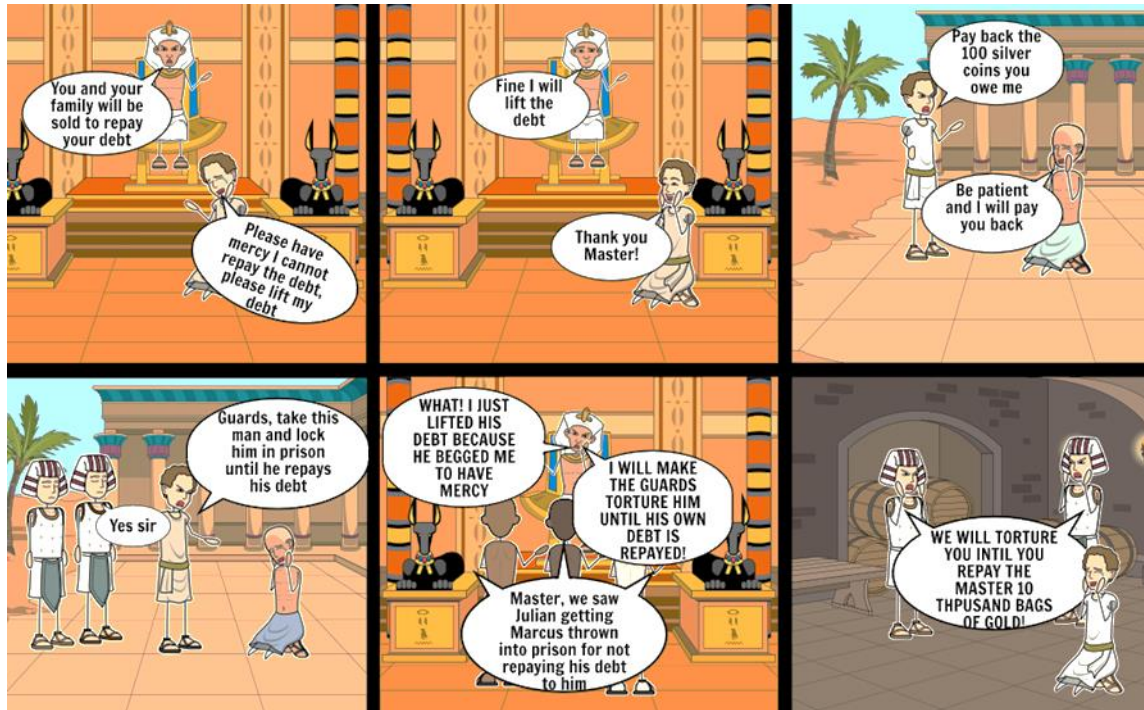
- **Are there other situations when you would apologize but Canadians do not**

## How many times should we forgive someone?

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

*Gospel of Matthew 18:21-22*

### ***Jesus story of the Unforgiving Servant***



- ❖ Do you have a hard time forgiving people when they hurt you?
- ❖ What do you think of Jesus advice?
- ❖ Who might you have to forgive that many times? Can you do this?

### **Idioms:**

**1. No big deal** - not difficult or troublesome.  
*"Don't worry. It's no big deal to wash the dishes. No problem."*

**2. Better (be) safe than sorry** - You should be cautious—if you are not, you may regret it. *"It may be time-consuming to check the oil in your car every time you buy gasoline, but better safe than sorry."*

**3. A sorry sight** - a sight that one regrets seeing; someone or something that is unpleasant to look at. *"Well, aren't you a sorry sight! Go get cleaned up and put on some clean clothes."*

**4. Bear a grudge against someone** - continue to be angry about something; not willing to forgive. *"She still bears a grudge against her friend even though she has apologized many times."*