

WARM-UPS

1. APOLOGIES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about apologies. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Australians / apologizing / forgotten / orphanages / identity / abuse / being worthless / shame / pain / powerful things / being alone / healing words / the future / history

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. MY APOLOGIES: When was the last time you apologized to the people in this table? Tell you partner what you wrote. Change partners and share what you heard.

Apology to...	When?	About what?	How was it accepted?
my best friend			
a partner			
a parent			
a stranger			
a shop assistant			
a teacher			

4. SORRY: Students A **strongly** believe saying sorry always makes things better; Students B **strongly** believe sorry is just a word that really rarely helps. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. PERSONAL HISTORY: Which of these things are most important to you about your personal history? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- photos
- childhood friends
- music
- books
- collections from hobbies
- cuddly toys
- diaries
- awards, certificates & prizes

6. SORRY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'sorry'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

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WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091118-forgotten_australians.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologized to _____ a million citizens on November the 16th. The 500,000 people are the so-_____ "Forgotten Australians". These are children who _____ themselves in Australian orphanages between 1930 and 1970. Included in them were 7,000 _____ migrants from Britain. Institutions changed the children's names and told them their parents were dead. This erased their personal _____ and created a _____ of identity. There are thousands of stories of how the children suffered abuse, sexual assault, poor health care and poor education. Children were told they were bad and _____. They grew up without any kind of love, which makes it difficult for them to _____ relationships today.

Mr. Rudd said his country "looked back in _____" that so many children were assaulted, _____ and neglected. He apologized for their _____ of pain. Rudd added that the "Forgotten Australians" were now the "Remembered Australians". Frank Golding, who spent ten years growing up in care homes, applauded Mr. Rudd. He said the apology was a "powerful _____" for those who grew up frightened and _____. Australia's Human Rights Commission agreed that the Prime Minister's words were _____. Spokeswoman Cathy Branson said: "Saying sorry on _____ of the nation will assist many individuals and their families to look to the future, and to put behind them this _____ chapter in Australia's history."

worthless

history

found

form

half

child

called

loss

alone

decades

dark

thing

shame

healing

abused

behalf

Apology for the 'Forgotten Australians' - 18th November, 2009

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AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091118-forgotten_australians.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'half' and 'million'.

half	million

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• half• called• 7,000• loss• care• form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• looked• added• spent• grew• behalf• dark
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STUDENT APOLOGIES SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091118-forgotten_australians.html

Write five GOOD questions about apologies in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Australia'?
- c) What do you think of the news in this article?
- d) What three adjectives would you use to describe this news and why?
- e) Why do you think this happened?
- f) Why do you think it took so long for an Australian leader to apologize?
- g) How would you feel if your personal history was erased?
- h) Why do you think children were told they were bad and worthless?
- i) What kind of environment did you grow up in?
- j) Should the victims of this story receive compensation? How much?

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FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What shameful things has your country done?
- c) When was the last time you apologized to someone? Why?
- d) How do you think the apology will help the Forgotten Australians?
- e) How can the world stop this kind of thing happening?
- f) What parts of your society need healing?
- g) How do you feel after someone apologizes to you?
- h) Has there been a dark chapter in your life?
- i) What is the darkest chapter in your country's history?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Kevin Rudd?

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