

# The Road Less Travelled

## Episode 10: The poem

### The story so far:

Katie hasn't heard from Michael since she left lots of messages on his answerphone. She's feeling silly for calling so many times but now she's got other worries because Rich has just fired her from the club.



## Listening

### 1. Listen to the episode and then complete the sentences.

I think Michael probably feels \_\_\_\_\_ when he arrives at Katie's house.  
I think Katie feels \_\_\_\_\_ when she reads the poem.

### 2. Now listen again and find the five mistakes in this summary. Then correct the mistakes.

Michael and Katie both feel a little awkward following the incident with the police on their recent date. Katie is really happy to see Michael at her door and she invites him in and offers him a cup of coffee. Katie is embarrassed about sending Michael so many emails and Michael apologizes for not responding. He asks her out on another date and this time Michael will decide where they go. Michael gives Katie the lyrics of a song he has written for her and asks her to open the envelope while he's there with her.

## Language: Apologizing

There are many ways to apologize for something. Decide if these apologies are for informal (I) or Formal (F) situations. Some may be appropriate for both.

- "I really must apologise for ..."
- "I'm so sorry about ..."
- "Sorry!"
- "I don't know how you will ever be able to forgive me ..."
- "Please accept my most sincere apologies ..."
- "It was only a little mistake ..."
- "Sorry about that mate."

Now choose a suitable way to apologise for one of the following:

- You've sent a personal, and very private, email to your boss instead of the friend it was intended for!
- You've lost the mp3 player that your friend lent you.
- You arrive half an hour late to meet your friend.
- You spill your coffee on your boss's jacket.

## Discussion

- Where do you think Katie and Michael will go on their next date?
- Have you ever written anyone a poem, or a special message, to apologise for something?
- What do you think the poem was like? If you like, write the first verse of Michael's poem.

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### Transcript

KATIE: Coming!

KATIE: I said, I'm *coming*. Yes, hello?! Oh.

MM: Hi Katie.

KATIE: Hi. Hi! Come in, come in.

MM: Thanks.

KATIE: Here, come through to the living room. Can I get you something to drink?

MM: No, I'm okay thanks.

KATIE: Are you sure? Cup of tea?

MM: Well, well okay then.

KATIE: I'll be back in a minute. I've just made some tea actually.

MM: Katie, I ...

KATIE: Just a minute, I'll get the tea.

KATIE: Here we are.

MM: Thanks. Listen, Katie. I got your messages ...

KATIE: What? Oh, the messages. Oh, I feel a bit silly about those. You're really busy and I ... anyway ... it sounded a bit ...

MM: No, don't apologize. I should apologize. I guess I felt ... I felt ashamed after what happened in the car.

KATIE: I understand. It was horrible.

MM: I don't know if you can really understand. But let's not talk about that. I'm sorry I didn't answer your calls.

KATIE: That's all right.

MM: No, it isn't all right. But I would like to make it up to you. Would you like to go out again?

KATIE: Yes. Of course.

MM: Well, it's your turn to choose the place.

KATIE: Hmm. You'll have to give me some time to think about it. After the amazing evening we had last time together ...

MM: Yes. I have to go to work. But Katie.

KATIE: Yes?

MM: One more thing. This is for you.

KATIE: Oh! An envelope. What is it? Is it money?

MM: No, no. No, it's a poem. I wrote it for you. The other day. I wanted you to have it.

KATIE: Oh Michael.

MM: No, wait. I'd prefer if you read it later. I'll be embarrassed if you read it now.

KATIE: OK then.

MM: So, I'll call you.

KATIE: Promise?

MM: I promise. Bye. Thanks for the tea.

KATIE: Thanks for coming to visit.

KATIE: Oh. OH. That's so *nice*.



### Answer key

#### Listening

1. Students' own answers, but Michael probably feels a little nervous and Katie probably feels excited.
2.
  - coffee – tea
  - ~~sending Michael so many emails~~ – leaving Michael so many messages
  - ~~Michael will decide where they go~~ – Katie will decide where they go
  - ~~Michael gives Katie the lyrics of a song~~ – Michael gives Katie a poem
  - ~~open the envelope while he's there with her~~ – open the envelope when he's gone



#### Language

"I really must apologize for ..." **F**

"I'm so sorry about ..." **I / F**

"Sorry!" **I**

"I don't know how you will ever be able to forgive me ..." **F**

"Please accept my most sincere apologies ..." **F**

"It was only a little mistake ..." **I**

"Sorry about that mate." **I**