Mistakes in the Past

**Part 1:** With a partner, think of reasons why:

1. a person might be homeless.

Reason(s):

2. someone might have broken up with his/her boyfriend or girlfriend.

Reason(s):

3. a student might have failed an exam.

Reason(s):

4. a child might have to stay in his/her room for a week as punishment.

Reason(s):

**Part 2**: Decide who is StudentA and who is StudentB. Then, role-play the below situations. You will use the reasons you wrote in Part 1 in your role-plays. When role-playing, use expressions for criticism and regret. For example:

* *If you hadn’t stolen the cookie, I wouldn’t have gotten angry.*
* *You shouldn’t have stolen the cookie!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | **StudentA**: You are homeless. You are on the street. You have had problems in your life (see reasons for #1 above). You see a person on the street (StudentB). Tell him/her about the hard life you have had and the mistakes you have made. Try to get help and money. You will start the conversation. |
|  | **StudentB:** You are a businesses person. You are on the street. You see a homeless person. You don’t want to talk to him/her, but s/he looks like he is going to talk to you. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | **StudentA**: Your partner has just broken up with you. You had problems in your relationship (see reasons for #2 above). You want him/her back. You have decided to go to his/her house. Knock on the door and try to convince him/her to take you back. |
|  | **StudentB**: You have just broken up with your partner. You had problems in your relationship (see reasons for #2 above). You are happy now. You are relaxing at home, watching TV.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3 | **StudentA**: You are a teacher. One of your students has just failed his/her exam. The student wasn’t a very good student (see reasons for #3 above). It is your school’s policy that final exams cannot be taken again. You are in your office. |
|  | **StudentB**: You are a student. You have just failed an important exam. You have had many problems (see reasons for #3 above). You are at your teacher’s office. Explain your situation. Knock on his/her door, and try to get her/him to let you write it again.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4 |  **StudentA**: You are a parent. Your child has been very bad recently (see reasons for #4 above), so you have told him/her to stay in his/her room for a week. You are downstairs now, relaxing. |
|  | **StudentB**: You are a child. Your parents have told you to stay in your room all week because of problems you have caused (see reasons for #4 above). But you don’t think it’s fair. Go downstairs and try to get your parent to forgive you.  |

---

*Copyright Matthew Barton of Englishcurrent.com*