

**Suggested Questions about *Effective Apology: Mending Fences, Building Bridges, and Restoring Trust* by John Kador**

1. I feel bad about how I mistreated myself. Can I apologize to myself?
2. Can I apologize to my dog (cat, parrot, pot-bellied pig)?
3. Can I apologize on behalf of somebody else?
4. What do you think about apologizing in advance?
5. You say that the apologizer's sincerity is not really all that important. What do you mean by that?
6. I want to make amends. You say that the apologizer should not ask, "What can I do to make it right?" Why not?
7. I regret offending someone many years ago. I haven't seen that person since, and I don't expect to, but it still bothers me that I didn't apologize. Should I apologize now, and if so, how should I do it?
8. Is accepting an offender's apology the same thing as forgiving the offender?
9. When I apologize, should I ask for forgiveness?
10. Aren't doctors terrified of admitting medical errors and apologizing, because if they did, lawyers would use their apology against them in court?
11. Should the CEO always be the individual to offer an apology on behalf of an institution?
12. Does every apology require payment of money?
13. Should an apology be different for an offense of commission or an offense of omission?
14. What are negotiated apologies and are they effective?
15. Is it meaningful to order someone to apologize?
16. Your subtitle—"Building Bridges, Mending Fences, and Restoring Trust"—is interesting. What do you mean by "Mending Fences"? Shouldn't apologizers tear down fences, and not mend them?

**Additional questions suitable for book club facilitators discussing *Effective Apology***

1. What is your earliest memory of apology?
2. When was the last time you apologized?
3. How can you tell if an apology is sincere?
4. What does it mean to accept an apology?
5. When you accept an apology, are you condoning the offense?
6. Must you accept the apology if you're not absolutely sure the offender is sorry?
7. Is apology a gift? If so, how?

8. Does accepting an apology mean forgetting the offense occurred?
9. When, if ever, should an apology be rejected?
10. Have you ever rejected an apology?
11. There is this in apology—a bird can get home faster on a broken wing. What do you think this means?
12. Are there offenses so profound that an apology is powerless?
13. Is it inconsistent to tell a person you accept his or her apology but then say you are terminating the relationship?
14. Does a victim always share some responsibility for the offense?
15. Are there truly innocent victims?
16. Is it ever too late to apologize for something one did in the past?
17. If someone apologizes to us, are we required to let the person make amends?
18. Can you meaningfully apologize in advance?
19. Is it necessary to accept an apology if you forgive the offender?
20. What's the relationship between accepting an apology and forgiveness?
21. Is it meaningful for someone to apologize for an offense for which the person has no responsibility?
22. Is it meaningful to apologize to yourself?
23. Can you meaningfully apologize to a pet?
24. What are the particular meanings of apology in other cultures and languages?
25. What's the difference between empathy and sympathy?
26. What are some books, stories, poems, songs, movies that explore the meanings of apology?