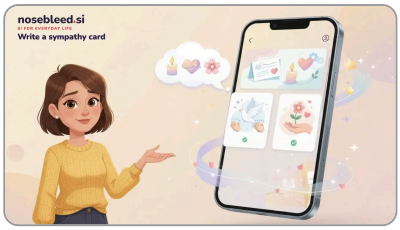
Write a sympathy card



Use AI to find a starting point when the words are hard to find, then make the message personal and true.

By the end, you'll be able to:

- know what usually helps in a sympathy message
- use AI for a gentle first draft
- make the message personal, and remove anything that isn't true

Warm-up What helps?

Talk about it gently with your group. When someone has sent you a card, what words helped? Is there anything people say that doesn't help?

1 What goes in a sympathy card?

Tick what usually helps.

	Helps	Doesn't help
Saying you're sorry for their loss		
A happy memory of the person		
Explaining how you felt when your own pet died		
"Everything happens for a reason"		
A kind word about the person who died		
A simple offer of help, like "I'll ring next week"		

2 Ask AI for a starting point

If you have a device, try this prompt. First names are enough.

TRY THIS PROMPT

My neighbour Margaret's husband, Bill, has died. He was a keen gardener and always waved from his greenhouse. Please suggest three short, warm messages for a sympathy card, each under 50 words. Keep the language simple, and don't add any memories I haven't given you.

3 Make it true

An AI wrote this. Underline **two** things you'd take out, and say why.

EXAMPLE AI MESSAGE

Dear Margaret, I was so sorry to hear about Bill. I'll always remember his wave from the greenhouse, and the wonderful tomatoes he gave us every summer. He's in a better place now. With love and thoughts,

4 Write your own

Write a short message for Margaret, in your own words. You can use any of AI's ideas.

5 Good to know

- A short, sincere message is enough. There are no perfect words.
- Use AI for a starting point, then write the card by hand, in your own words.
- Only include memories that are true.

> **No device?** In pairs, talk about a card that meant something to you, and what made it special. Then write Margaret's message together.

Find out more: read the free step-by-step guide, with a 10-second video, at **nosebleed.si/ideas/write-a-sympathy-card**

Teacher notes: Write a sympathy card

Time: 45 to 60 minutes

Level: beginners; no AI experience needed

Group: any size; works well in pairs

You'll need: a copy per learner; phones or tablets with an AI chat app (optional)

Before the session

Try the prompt yourself. Margaret and Bill are made up. This topic can bring up recent or painful losses. Introduce it gently, keep it about Margaret, and let anyone take a break or step out.

Running order

5 min	**Warm-up.** What helps. Keep it light-touch.
10 min	**Part 1.** What goes in a card.
15 min	**Parts 2 and 3.** Try the prompt, then make it true.
15 min	**Part 4.** Write a message in their own words.
5 min	**Wrap-up.** Short and sincere is enough.

Answers: Part 1

Helps: sorry for their loss; a happy memory; a kind word; a simple offer of help.
Doesn't help: turning it to your own story; "everything happens for a reason".

Answers: Part 3

1. **The tomatoes** were made up. Only include true memories.
2. **"He's in a better place now"** may not suit everyone's beliefs, and wasn't asked for.

Keep the wave from the greenhouse: that's a real, personal memory.

Discussion points

- A practical offer, followed up, often means more than the perfect words.
- Sending a card weeks later, or on an anniversary, can be a great comfort too.

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