

(1) Today I had a lesson with a student, Akira, from Japan.

The lesson was about expressing sympathy.
One vocabulary phrase was:

I'm so sorry!

(2) So Akira said, "I'm so sorry" means that I did something wrong! I don't know how to use it to express sympathy!

And he's right! In English, "sorry" has two kinds of meanings, two kinds of usages.

(3) The first one is for feeling regret.

That means you have some responsibility or guilt in the matter. For example:

Honey, you need to say, "**I'm sorry**" for breaking the vase!

Are you even **sorry**? Your mom loved that vase!



I'm sorry, mom and dad!

I would hope you'd be **sorry**!! That was your grandmother's vase!!

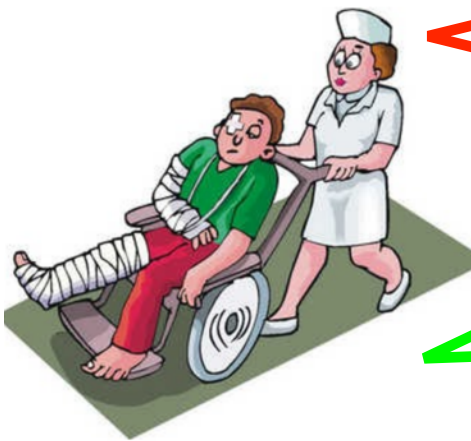
(4) Another example:

I'm sorry for my careless words yesterday.
Please forgive me!

You're sorry? You called me cruel and ugly and selfish, and you come here today with flowers and tell me **you're sorry**!!!!?

(5) There's another way to use the word. It's for expressing sympathy.
This means that you have no guilt or responsibility in the matter.

For example:



I'm so sorry about your accident! Are you okay?

Not really, but thanks for caring.

(6) And four days after the election, Akira can say:

I feel so sorry for you Americans, who **STILL** don't know who your president is!

(7) So sorry has two meanings:

FEELING REGRET AND FEELING SYMPATHY.