

# Words Can Build a Bridge

Learn together, one small step.



## Look closely

A block bridge falls. Will saying “You are silly” help rebuild it?



## Story 1 / 3



The block bridge tumbled down. Xiaohe almost shouted, "You are so silly!" Then she saw Lele draw back his shoulders and stopped. A small block at the bottom was crooked. That did not mean the person building the bridge was silly. She gathered the fallen blocks toward the middle of the rug.

Pause and ask: What do we know actually happened to the bridge?

## Story 2 / 3



She tried again. "This bottom block is small, so the bridge wobbles. Shall we try a wider one?" Lele looked up. "I want a tall bridge." "Me too," said Xiaohe. "Let us make the bottom steady first." She did not pretend the bridge had stayed up, and she did not make fun of Lele.

Pause and ask: Which words offered Lele something he could try?

## Story 3 / 3



They used wider blocks and tried again. The bridge was not very tall, but it was steadier. “I thought you were going to shout at me,” said Lele. “I felt impatient,” Xiaohe replied, “but I want to build it with you.” A sentence could be a bridge between two people, too.

Pause and ask: How is naming impatience different from insulting someone?

## A Buddhist idea

Speak truthfully and clearly,  
with care for the listener.



## Talk together

What did Xiaohe change about her words? How did that help?

If someone keeps making fun of you, who could help?



## Try an activity

Draw a bridge made of helpful words.



## For grown-ups

Read aloud, discuss and try a small activity.

Stories and exercises: BlessFu

Illustrations: AI-assisted

Full references and guidance are in the companion booklet.

