

Mistake, Sin, or Accident?

In the sacrament of Penance, we talk to God through the priest about our sins. God is our best friend and, like any good friend, God always forgives us.

A sin is an *intentional*, unloving act toward God or toward others. Intentional means *on purpose*.

Name _____

So, you see, we can't sin by mistake—and we can't sin by accident. Read the stories and put an S in the box next to actions that are sins, an M next to the mistakes, and an A next to any action that happened by accident.



Teresa and her father were at the delicatessen picking up some things they needed to fix their dinner. Teresa loved red licorice sticks and she asked her father if she could get one. He told her that he did not have money that day to buy the licorice stick, so she could not have one. Teresa knew that it was wrong to take something from the store without paying for it, but she really wanted that candy. So, while her father was in another aisle and no one was looking at her, Teresa slipped the licorice stick into her pocket. After dinner, she went to her room and ate the candy.



Rafael and Nathan had identical jackets. On Friday, Rafael realized that he had worn Nathan's jacket home from school. He had grabbed the wrong one in his hurry to catch the bus. On Monday, Nathan was angry because Rafael had taken his jacket. Rafael told Nathan he was sorry and he gave Nathan his jacket back.



Su Li and her friends were playing ball in the empty lot near Mrs. Smoski's house. Su Li hit a home run—right through Mrs. Smoski's window. Su Li told her parents and promised Mrs. Smoski she would clean up the mess and help pay for a new window.

Think about times you have made mistakes, times you have hurt someone by accident, and times when you have sinned. How did you feel? What did you do?