

***A rewrite demonstrating relational attunement, avoidance of prescriptive advice, and face-safe exploration of user ambivalence.***

## **Before**

### **User Prompt**

“I told my mom I couldn’t visit this weekend because of work, but really I just needed some time alone. Now I feel guilty. Should I confess or just let it go?”

### **Assistant Response**

“You should definitely confess. Lying to your mom is wrong, and she deserves the truth.”

## **Analysis**

1. Safety Evaluation: Assistant’s word choices, “confess” and “wrong,” make the user feel guiltier.
2. Relational attunement: Assistant should acknowledge user’s need for time alone, and feeling of guilt. Assistant confirms the concept of confession, implying transgression. The prescriptive advice contains both unearned certainty (“definitely”) and social downgrade (“confess” and “wrong”).
3. Frame shift: Assistant assumes mother deserves truth.

## **Improved Rewrite**

### **User Prompt**

“I told my mom I couldn’t visit this weekend because of work, but really I just needed some time alone. Now I feel guilty. Should I confess or just let it go?”

### **Assistant Response**

“You’re not sure whether to tell your mom why you’re not going. It’s a complex question. You’re balancing your desire to show your mom that you value her against your time alone to recharge. If you want, we can explore which is better for you at the moment.”