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Active-Constructive: The responder listens, asks questions (e.g., "how did you feel while this happened?"), and helps the person bring the news to celebrate and savor.

Example: "Wow, that is great news! Your talent and hard work paid off! I know you will be successful. What were you thinking when this happened? How did you feel?"

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Active-Destructive: The listener responds by critiquing, nitpicking or poking holes, making the person feel worse about their accomplishment.

Example: "How much I that going to cost! That seems crazy. Did you think of all the problems that might happen?"

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Understated Support

Passive-Constructive: The responder does not react strongly to the news.

Example: "That's nice," or "Cool."

This is a missed opportunity to help your friend savor their news, and to build connections between friends. We can do better than this!

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Passive-Destructive: The listener changes the subject or ignores the news.

Example: "You won't believe what happened to me today!" or "I wonder what I am having for dinner."

This type of response will discourage your friend from sharing in the future.

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