Unit 8 · Describing Location

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **location** = the place where something is; small words like *in, on, under, behind, between* tell us (**prepositions of place**)

Song: the pretend game

- a little girl's **pretend game**: her daddy calls, and she names silly places
- *under the sea, in the window, out the door, on top of the table, under the floor, next to the fish*
- each place = a preposition + a thing: *under + the sea*

Reading I: Rani Mahal

- **Kind:** a description of a place: **where it is → what it is like → how to get there**
- **Where:** right beside the **Kaligandaki River**, in **Palpa**; **situated 13 km north of Tansen**, on a huge rock
- **Name:** *Rani Mahal* = "queen's palace"
- **Who, when:** General **Khadga Shumsher** had it built; about **four years**; finished **1893**
- **The building:**
  - **four storeys**, about twelve rooms
  - prayer room on the eastern side, at the front
  - sitting rooms on the top floor, bedrooms on the middle floor
  - **gardens and a pond** all round; stairs down to the river
- **The river:** has **religious importance** (a holy river)
- **Getting there:**
  - by road, about **half an hour** from Tansen (vehicles from Narayansthan)
  - on foot from Kailashnagar, near Batasedanda: about **3 to 4 hours**
- visitors come in large numbers; hotels and camping sites nearby
- **"Nepal's Taj Mahal":** built in memory of his wife, Tej Kumari

Reading II: Clouds

- **cloud:** millions of tiny **drops of water** or **ice crystals** floating high up; part of the **weather**
- **How a cloud forms:**
  1. air always holds **water vapor**, a gas we can't see
  2. warm air carries it up
  3. high up the air is cooler; the vapor turns into tiny drops
  4. each drop forms on a speck of dust, smoke or sea salt
  5. millions of drops = a cloud we can see
- **Named by** how high it is and its shape:

Cloud	Height	Looks like
cirrus	high (made of ice)	feathers
cumulus	low bottoms, tall puffy tops	giant cotton balls
stratus	low	a bedsheet over the sky
fog	on the ground	(a cloud lying on the ground)

- **Rain:** drops bump and join, grow heavy, **gravity** pulls them down
- very cold: **sleet** (rain + snow), **hail** (balls of ice), freezing rain

Key words

built: made, constructed (*build* → *built*).
prayer: words you say to God.
possess: have or own.
massive: very big and heavy.
surround: be all around.
hiking: long walks in the hills.
attractive: nice to look at.
situated: (formal) placed, located.
crystal: a small, hard, clear piece (ice, salt).
vapor: water as a gas; also the mist over a kettle.
droplet: a very small drop.
giant: very large.
gravity: the Earth's pull that makes things fall.

Grammar I: prepositions of place

Word	Means	Example
in	inside	*swimming in the pond*
on	touching the top	*the book on the desk*
under	lower, below	*hiding under the bed*
over	higher, not touching	*jumping over the fire*
in front of	at the front, facing	*in front of the TV*
behind	at the back	*behind the door*
next to	beside	*next to the bed*
between	one thing on each side	*between the trees*

- **on** touches; **over** has space between (a bird flies **over** the house)
- **between** needs two: *between India **and** China*; with one, *next to*

Grammar II: in, on, at for places

Word	For	Examples
in	inside a space; a town, district, country	*in the bottle, in Birgunj, in Pokhara*
on	touching a surface	*on the table, on the wall, on page 5*
at	a point; a place where something happens	*at the airport, at the station, at the door*

- **fixed phrases:**
  - *at home, at school, at work*
  - *on the radio, on TV*
  - *at the top, at the bottom*
- a town: **in** Pokhara, never *at Pokhara*

Speaking and writing: describing a room

- **Q:** *Where is the lamp?* **A:** *It's over the table.*
- a new preposition in each sentence
- **there is** one thing; **there are** more than one
- **order:**
  1. one sentence about the room (*This is my bedroom.*)
  2. go round it: from the door, left to right, or floor up
- describing a place you know: where it is → what it is like → how to get there
- *If you got a chance… what would you see?* → answer with **would**

Pronunciation

- **vehicle**: silent h, *VEE-uh-kl*
- **hotel**: *ho-TEL*, stress at the end
- most two-part words stressed first: *PAL-ace, DIS-tance, MAS-sive, LAND-scape*

Listening: Melbourne

- Shirley is **from Australia**, from Melbourne (not Sydney)
- Melbourne has **lots of parks**, with plants from around the world; a small lake **in the center**
- at one time of year, big **fruit bats hang upside down from the trees**, like big sacks

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ The cat is over the table. (sitting on it)
✓ The cat is **on** the table.

✗ She lives at Birgunj.
✓ She lives **in** Birgunj.

✗ I'll meet you in the airport.
✓ …**at** the airport.

✗ between the bank
✓ **next to** the bank / between the bank **and** the school

✗ There is two pillows.
✓ There **are** two pillows.

✗ ve-HI-kel
✓ *VEE-uh-kl*