Unit 11 · Narrating Past Events

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **narrate** = tell what happened, in order, like a story
- two past tenses: **past simple** (*walked, ate*) and **past continuous** (*was reading*)

Getting started: Sumina's day

Clock	What she did
3:45 (a quarter to four)	**left** school
5:00	**reached** home and **played**
7:00	**took** a meal
8:30 (half past eight)	**went** to bed

- say it with **at**: *At 3:45, Sumina left school.*
- at 3:45 the short hand is **nearly** at 4: still three-something

Song: a funny trade

- a child *got a new game for my brother*: not a present, he **traded** (swapped) his brother for it
- the joke hides in **for**: "to give to" or "in exchange for"
- parents upset; he nodded, said sorry, then smiled and played his new game
- past forms in it: *got, said, nodded, told, sat, smiled, played, was*
- **regular** verbs add **-ed / -d**: *nodded, smiled, played*
- **irregular** verbs change their own way: *get* → *got, sit* → *sat, tell* → *told*; learn them by heart

Reading I: A Villager and his Money

- **the farmer:** old, had **a lot of** money, kept it at home **under his mattress**; locked the doors every night
- **one evening:** too tired, asked his **wife** to lock up; she chatted with a neighbor and **forgot the back door**
- **the thief:** came in at night, **knocked over a pot**; the farmer shouted *Who's there?*; the thief ran away **with nothing**
- **to the bank:** his wife had told him many times; he took the money to a bank **in the city**, got a **receipt** and a **cheque book**
- **the joke:** a year later he took it out, counted it, and gave it **straight back**: he only wanted to check the bank **hadn't spent it**
- he thinks a bank keeps each person's notes in a box
- **really:** a bank keeps some money ready and **lends** the rest; you get the **same amount**, not the same notes
- Nepal's first bank: **Nepal Bank Limited**, 1937 (1994 BS)

Said	By → to
Why didn't you lock it?	farmer → wife
I am sorry.	wife → farmer
...why you took your money out...?	clerk → farmer
Now, take it back again, please.	farmer → clerk

Key words

mattress: the soft, thick part of a bed.

careful: thinking about what you do, so nothing goes wrong.

properly: in the right way.

knock over: hit something so it falls.

frightened: very scared.

count: say numbers in order to find how many.

receipt: a paper that shows you paid or gave money (p silent: "ri-SEET").

trade: a swap.

charcoal: black pieces of burnt wood.

pat: a gentle touch.

proud: happy about something you did.

glee: great joy.

rush: go or run very quickly.

Pronunciation: -ed

Sound	Verb ends in	Words
/t/	a quiet sound: k, p, s, sh, ch, f	*locked, asked, walked*
/d/	a buzzing sound or a vowel	*lived, enjoyed, replied, surprised*
/ɪd/, an extra beat	**t** or **d**	*counted, handed, wanted*

Grammar I: past simple and past continuous

Past simple: happened and **finished** (*yesterday, last week, a year later*)

	Example
yes	*He **counted** the money.*
no	*He **didn't count** it.*
question	***Did** he **count** it?*

- same for everyone: *I walked, she walked*; never an -s
- after **did / didn't**: the **plain** verb
- **spelling:**
  - most **+ed**: *walked*
  - ending in e **+d**: *lived*
  - consonant + y **-ied**: *replied*; vowel + y keeps it: *played*
  - short, one vowel + one consonant: double it: *nodded, stopped*

Past continuous: was **going on**, in the middle, at a past time

	Example
I, he, she, it, one name	*Dev **was dancing**.*
you, we, they	*They **were singing**.*
no	*He **wasn't sleeping**.*
question	***Were** you **sleeping**?*

- **was / were + -ing**; like a photo of that moment
- **-ing spelling:** *write → writing*; *swim → swimming, sit → sitting*
- rewriting: *I wrote a story.* → *I **was writing** a story.*; *didn't* → **wasn't / weren't** + -ing

Grammar II: when and while

- a **short** action cuts into a **long** one: long = past continuous (a **bar**), short = past simple (a **dot**)
  - ***While** I **was washing** the dishes, a dog **came** in.* (while + the long one)
  - *Meena **was cutting** vegetables **when** she **cut** her finger.* (when + the short one)
- two long actions at once: both continuous (*While Dad was cooking, I was setting the table.*)
- one finished act (*joined, got there, did you find*): past simple
- **word order:** who → verb → the rest; time phrase at the end (*They sang English songs last evening.*)
- question: **Was / Were / Did** first (*Was Nani preparing food in the morning?*)

Speaking: questions about the past

- **who** → a person; **when** → a time; **where** → a place; **what** → a thing
- question word + **did** + person + **plain** verb: *What **did** you **buy** yesterday?*
- **who** asking about the doer: no *did* (*Who **prepared** food?*)
- *Did …?* → *Yes, I **did**. / No, I **didn't**.*
- *What were you doing?* → *I **was studying**.*

Writing I: the camel story

- a baby camel asks why they have **humps**, **round, wide feet** and **long eyelashes**; each helps in the desert
- last question: then what are they doing **in a zoo**? no answer
- verbs: *were talking* (long, going on), then *asked, replied, said, thought* (short, finished)
- eyelashes keep out desert dust and sand

Reading II: Melinda's Snowman (a poem)

- **Poets:** Linda Knaus and Kenn Nesbitt; five verses, a story
- **Melinda makes a snowman:** carrot nose, rubber **boots** for toes, **charcoal** eyes, her **father's hat** and his **favorite tie**
- **proud**, full of **glee**, she rushes **up the stairs** to call her mum and dad
- when they come down, she is **in tears**; they say snowmen belong **outside**
- **the joke:** she built it **indoors**, so it **melted**; the poem never says so
- snow melts above **0 °C**; nobody saw her snowman
- rhymes: *nose / toes, pat / hat, note / throat, glee / see, cried / outside*
- tallest snow figure: a snow woman, **37 m**, Bethel, Maine, USA, 2008

Writing II: a story in order

- **beginning** (who, where) → **middle** (what goes wrong) → **end** (how it ends, the lesson)
- link words point back: *one of the pups, in there, there was no dog*
- **the puppy and the well:** mother says keep away from the well → one pup climbs up, looks in → sees his **reflection**, thinks it is another dog, gets angry at it for copying → jumps in: no dog → barks and swims till the farmer saves him → learns his lesson
- **lesson:** listen when told no; ask *why* instead of finding out the dangerous way

Listening: Levi's holiday

Question	Answer
where he went	**to the seaside**
the car	**it broke down**
the weather	**windy and stormy**
restaurant staff	**very rude**
shopping	**his wallet was stolen**

- telling a trip: where, how you got there, first, then, at the end; one long action cut by a short one

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Why didn't you locked it?
✓ Why didn't you **lock** it?

✗ Did he went home?
✓ Did he **go** home?

✗ What you bought yesterday?
✓ What **did** you **buy** yesterday?

✗ They was playing cricket.
✓ They **were** playing cricket.

✗ While Pratik rode his bike, it started to rain.
✓ While Pratik **was riding** his bike, it started to rain.

✗ Meena cut vegetables when she cut her finger.
✓ Meena **was cutting** vegetables when she cut her finger.

✗ A camel's hump stores water.
✓ It stores **fat**.

✗ *handed* has one beat.
✓ **hand-ed**: two beats (/ɪd/).