Unit 12 · Giving Reasons

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- a **reason** answers **why?**; **because** comes just before it
- *He is watering the plant **because** a plant needs water to grow.*
- join ideas with **and, but, because**; the past simple again, regular and irregular

Getting started

Picture	Doing	Because
man in a mask	sanitizer on his hands	it kills germs
boy	watering a plant	plants need water to grow
girl	yoga (the **camel pose**)	it keeps her body strong and bendy
girl	reading, smiling	she loves stories

Song: Skyscrapers

- **Poet:** Rachel Field; the poem is made only of **questions** (four)
- **skyscraper** = a very tall building, as if it scraped the sky
- she wonders if it feels as we do: **tired** of standing, **cold** on a **frosty** night, **lonely** up high, wanting to lie down and rest
- a building can't feel; she imagines it, so we see tall buildings in a new way
- **why build them:** city land is costly and scarce; many people live or work close together; it makes a city famous
- **Burj Khalifa**, Dubai: tallest building, **828 m**, 163 floors
- **Nepal:** many earthquakes, so the National Building Code sets rules; tallest are flats in Kathmandu, about 17 floors

Reading I: The Golden Goose

- an old **German fairy tale**, written down by the **Brothers Grimm**
- a man's **three sons**; the youngest, **Simon**, thought silly

Son	Food from mother	With the old man	Then
eldest	fine big cake, apple juice	says no	axe slips, **cuts his arm**, goes home
second	sweet cake, apple juice	says no, walks away	**cuts his leg**, goes home
Simon	small **loaf** of brown bread, water	*let's eat together*	bread → **cake**, water → **juice**

- the old man helps Simon **because he has a good heart**; tells him to cut a certain tree
- inside it: a **goose with golden feathers**
- a king's only daughter is sad and bored; the king **promised**: whoever makes her happy marries her
- the golden goose makes her happy; Simon **marries the princess**
- **things in threes:** the first two go wrong the same way; the third is the surprise
- **wood** = what trees are made of, and a small forest

Reading II: Neil's email

- **From** Neil (UK) **to** Priti, who he stayed with last week; subject *Hi*

Neil says	Because
loved the **scenery**	he saw lots of **huge mountains**
enjoyed the food	**spicy and tasty**
liked the people	**amazing, friendly and helpful**
our culture was different	we have many **traditions**
the roads **scared** him	very **busy**: cars, motorbikes, people
the house was cold at night	it had **no heating**
will **definitely** come again	the **best holiday** he has ever had

- thanks Priti first; ends **Kind regards,** + name
- a reason for almost everything: easy to believe
- UK houses: **central heating** (long gray winters); most Nepali houses: none (sunny winter days; warm clothes, sun, fire)

Key words

frosty: icy, very cold.

lonely: sad and alone.

eldest: the oldest of three or more children.
axe: a sharp blade on a long handle, for chopping wood.
loaf: bread baked in one big piece.
goose: a large waterbird with a long neck.
promise: say you will surely do something; give your word.
glad: happy, pleased.
special: different from the usual, and better.
stay: a time living somewhere for a while.
scenery: what you see around you in nature.
amazing: wonderful.
tradition: a custom followed for a long time.
definitely: surely.

Pronunciation: the final r

- **British English:** an **r** at the end is **not said**; final *er* = a soft **uh** /ə/
  - *father* "fath-uh", *water* "wat-uh", *her* "huh" (long)
  - also: *clever, mother, brother, whoever, under, daughter*
- the r comes back before a vowel: *my brother is tall*
- **American English** says the r; both are right, keep to one
- an **r** at the start is always said: *red*

Grammar I: regular and irregular past

Regular (+ -ed / -d)	Irregular (learn by heart)
called, wanted, answered, walked, asked, turned, ruled, lived	had, gave, met, left, sat, ate, took, heard, was / were

- *hear* → *heard*: the vowel sound changes too, so **irregular**
- *cut* → *cut*: the same in the past
- answer with the question's verb in the past: *Where did you go?* → *I **went** …*
- *did* + plain verb in the question; past form in the answer: *Did she go?* → *Yes, she **went** to Pokhara.*
- **mail** is not counted: *three **emails**, some mail*

Grammar II: and, but, because

Word	Job	Example
and	adds one more of the same kind	*friendly **and** helpful*
but	two things that differ; a surprise	*I lost the match, **but** I'm happy.*
because	the reason; answers *why?*	*I loved the scenery **because** I saw huge mountains.*

- **because** goes before the part that answers *why*: *I was hungry **because** I didn't eat.*
- no heating is the reason the room was cold: **because**, not *but*
- same start in both halves: say it once (*I saw a snail **and** a tortoise.*)
- in a list, **and** before the last one
- a **comma before but** joining two sentences (*Mathematics is difficult, **but** I like it.*); none before *because*

Writing: a reply email

1. **To:** the address
2. **Subject:** a few words; a reply starts **Re:** (*Re: Hi*)
3. **Greeting:** *Dear Neil,*
4. **Opening:** thanks for his email; glad he enjoyed his stay
5. **Body:** answer his surprises; two or three reasons to come again, each with **because**
6. **Closing line** (*I hope to see you again soon.*), **Kind regards,** your name

- an email address: name @ ("at") service; **example.com** belongs to no one

Speaking and listening

- **Kajol and Rahul:** his favorite book *Snow White* (Brothers Grimm); just read *Hansel and Gretel*, liked it **because** the children get home safely, with the witch's treasure
- **give a reason:** *I am angry **because** my friend teased me.*
- **project:** ask five friends their favorite subject and why; report

Justyna (listening)	
her job	**photographer** for a newspaper (Warsaw, Poland)
needs better English to	**study** at a university (UK)
her teacher Kate	**friendly**, helps in class
worried about	her **marks** in tests
not good at	tests and **exams**

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ I didn't eat because I was hungry.
✓ I was hungry **because** I didn't eat.

✗ The room was cold but it had no heating.
✓ The room was cold **because** it had no heating.

✗ Mathematics is difficult because I like it.
✓ Mathematics is difficult, **but** I like it.

✗ I am tall because I can run fast.
✓ I am tall **and** I can run fast.

✗ Did she went?
✓ Did she **go**?

✗ heared, taked, meeted
✓ **heard, took, met**

✗ I got three mails.
✓ I got three **emails**.