Unit 12 · Apologizing

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **apologize** = say sorry: the **words**, the **reason**, then **putting it right**
- **negatives**: **not / n't** after a helping verb; no helping verb → **don't / doesn't / didn't** + plain verb

Song: a sorry song

- verse 1: sorry to a **friend**, **parents** and **teachers** for every hurt, known or unknown; **ignorance** = not knowing
- verse 2: sorry to the **earth** for **exploiting** it (using it too much, taking more than is fair) and never being satisfied; promises not to hurt it; thanks it
- rhymes in pairs: *you / too, ignorance / hence, lot / got, more / therefore*
- **hence**, **therefore**: old, formal words for *so*

Reading I: Forgiveness of the King

- a **folk tale**: an old story told from person to person, with a lesson

1. a king on a **tour** with ministers, guards and **courtiers**; rests in the **shade** of a mango tree
2. a stone hits his **forehead**; it bleeds; the pain is **intolerable**
3. guards search the garden: only an old woman; she threw a stone **at the mango tree**; asked about the king: silent, pale; arrested
4. she **trembles** with **immense** fear; sure she will be killed
5. the king asks **calmly**; the truth: her son has had nothing to eat for **two days**; the stone was for a mango; it hit the king **by accident**
6. she bows, begs forgiveness; the king, **kind-hearted**, **forgives** her: no punishment; **money and food**

- the lesson: an honest mistake made out of need → **understanding**, not punishment; she told the truth even when afraid
- true or false: not hunting (**on a tour**); not working in a field; nobody told her she would be punished; her son never brought in; never beaten
- **forgive → forgave → forgiven**; never *forgived*

Key words

courtier: a person who serves a king or queen at the palace.
royal: belonging to a king or queen.
shade: a cool, dark place out of the sun.
forehead: the part of your face above your eyes.
intolerable: too bad or too strong to bear.
tremble: shake with fear, cold or weakness.
immense: very large, very great.
starving: very hungry after no food for a long time.
personnel: the people who work for someone (the king's guards).
forgive: stop being angry with someone for what they did.
solve: find the answer to (a problem).
suitable: right for a person, purpose or place.
inspect: look at carefully, check.
bill: a paper saying how much you must pay.
move in: start living in a new home.
heating: a way of keeping a building warm.

Speaking: saying sorry

Step	What is said
1. get attention politely	*Excuse me!*
2. answer	*Yes, please? / Yes?*
3. what is wrong, as a request	*Will you please be quiet?*
4. sorry + a reason	*Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see the sign.*

- the reason often has no *because*: *I didn't see the sign. I didn't realize that.* → you didn't mean it
- the two talks: a **nurse** and a boy (a **silent zone**); **Srijana** and **Bikas** (read silently)

Small slip	More serious	Formal (writing)
Oops! / Whoops!	I'm really sorry.	Please accept my apology.
Sorry!	I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to.	I apologize for...
Excuse me.	I'm terribly sorry. It was my fault.	I am sorry for any trouble this has caused.

- accepting: *That's all right. No problem. Don't worry about it. It doesn't matter.*

The right sorry for the situation

- kept someone on hold → *Sorry to keep you waiting.*
- phoning again → *Sorry to bother you again, but...*
- late at a restaurant → *Sorry I'm late. Have you been waiting long?*
- getting off the bus → *Excuse me, can I just...?*
- spilled someone's drink → *I'm terribly sorry. Let me buy you another one.*
- spilled on your own clothes → *Whoops.*
- a customer shows you a dirty spoon → *I'm very sorry. I'll get you a clean one.*
- the waiter brought the wrong food → *I'm sorry, but this isn't what I ordered.*
- not every *sorry* is an apology: *I'm sorry, but...* = a polite complaint or *no*; *Sorry?* (rising voice) = say that again
- act it out: smoking under a No Smoking sign; writing on a wall; chatting in a library; pencil shavings on the floor; bumping into someone

Listening: a missed birthday party

- a phone message to **Nirmala**: the speaker missed her **birthday** party
- why: the speaker's **dad** had a **severe headache** just as the speaker was leaving; to hospital, there all night; home now, getting better

- putting it right: **lunch** on **Saturday** at a restaurant at **Milanchowk**, near their homes; the **dad** comes too
- sorry words: *I'm really sorry that I couldn't attend your birthday party. I know that you might be angry with me. Sorry again.*

A GOOD APOLOGY

- **say sorry** for exactly what you did: *I'm sorry I missed your party.*
- **give the reason**, if there is one, without blaming others
- **put it right**, or promise to: *Let's have lunch on Saturday. It won't happen again.*

Grammar: making sentences negative

Positive	Negative	Why
I **have** an extra pencil.	I **don't have** an extra pencil.	*have* = own, the main verb
I **have completed** it.	I **haven't completed** it.	*have* = a helping verb
She **saw** me.	She **didn't see** me.	past, no helping verb
She **spends** a lot.	She **doesn't spend** a lot.	he / she / it, no helping verb

1. **a helping verb?** (*am, is, are, was, were, have, has, had, can, will, should, must*) → **not** right after it: *isn't, wasn't, haven't, can't* (cannot), *won't* (will not)
2. **no helping verb?** → **don't / doesn't / didn't** + the **plain** verb: *spends* → *doesn't spend, saw* → *didn't see*

- after **didn't**, the plain verb: *did* already shows the past
- *he seems* → *he **doesn't seem*** (no -s on *seem*)
- *am not* has no short form: ***I'm not***
- *buy some **fruit*** (all together); *fruits* = different kinds

Reading II: Letter of Apology

- from **Janet MacDonald** (the **landlady**, owns the flat) to **Ms. Shaw** (the **tenant**, pays the rent); written from **Peebles**, Scotland, on **18 March**; the flat is in **London**
- **flat** = a home on one floor of a bigger building (American: *apartment*)

1. **thanks**, sorry about the problems; can't **solve** them all; will try
2. **furniture**: Ms. Shaw liked it when she moved in; she has changed her mind → **no help**
3. **heating**: cold in winter; she lived there **twenty years**; used **electric fires** → *you must do the same*; get someone to look at the **windows**
4. **kitchen**: needs painting → **yes**: buy the paint, send her the **bill**; a **suitable** color, nothing too modern; the **bathroom** too
5. sorry she can't come to **inspect** it: she lives far away; *Yours sincerely*

- many sorries, one fix (the kitchen, and she pays): **saying no politely**
- **I'm afraid...** = polite bad news, not fear
- C: *electric, work · modern, suitable · central heating, condition · problems, mind · replacing, prepared*
- **central heating**: one boiler heats the whole house, through pipes; **change your mind**: decide differently; **prepared to** = willing to

Writing: an apology letter or email

1. **say sorry**, and exactly what for
2. **explain** briefly, blaming no one else
3. **promise** it won't happen again, or offer to put it right
4. **end warmly**

- email: **To**, **Subject**, *Dear Prapti*, the parts above, *Yours friend* and your name
- *I **behaved badly towards** you* / *I **was rude to** you*; *misbehave* takes no object
- project, an email to a teacher: **To** (the teacher's address), **Subject** (*Sorry for missing class on Monday*), *Dear Sir* or *Dear Ma'am* (then a comma); sorry + reason + how you will **catch up**, *Yours sincerely* + name and class

Extra bit: word classes II

Class	What it does	Examples
noun	names a person, thing, animal, place or idea	teacher, pencil, cat, Kathmandu, love
verb	an action, something happening, a state	run, happen, seem, write
adjective	describes a noun or pronoun	big, strong, beautiful, good
adverb	describes a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a sentence	badly, quickly, very, yesterday

- size: **nouns** the largest group, **adjectives** the second, **verbs** the third
- **nouns**: ideas you can't touch = **abstract nouns** (*love, fear, kindness*)
- **verbs**: every sentence needs one; show **time** (*writes, wrote, will write*)
- **adjectives**: what kind, which, how many (*a tall, green tree*)
- **adverbs**: how, when, where, how much (*badly hurt, came yesterday, very hot*); many in **-ly**, not all (*fast, well, very, soon*)
- the **job** decides: *a **fast** bus* (adjective), *goes **fast*** (adverb); *a glass of **water*** (noun), ***water** the plants* (verb)

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ She didn't went to school.
✓ She didn't **go** to school.

✗ He doesn't seems happy.
✓ He doesn't **seem** happy.

✗ I amn't hungry.
✓ **I'm not** hungry.

✗ He don't like milk.
✓ He **doesn't** like milk.

✗ We haven't a car.
✓ We **don't have** a car.

✗ The king forgived her.
✓ The king **forgave** her.

✗ I'm sorry for misbehaving you.
✓ I'm sorry I **behaved badly towards** you.