Unit 16 · Narrating a Sequence of Events

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **narrating a sequence of events**: telling what happened, one thing after another, in the right order
- the **past simple** for each event; the **past continuous** for what was going on

Getting started

- four pictures: what **happened**? (finished → **past simple**)
  - a boy with a trophy → *He **won** a trophy.*
  - factories and smoke → *People **built** factories; the smoke **polluted** the air.*
  - four people at stands → *They **had** a debate.*
  - a flag on a snowy peak → *Someone **climbed** the mountain.*
- a **memorable** event: one you remember well (special, happy, funny, frightening)

Song: The Song of the Old Mother

- by **W. B. Yeats** (1865–1939), Irish poet; *The Wind Among the Reeds* (1899)
- an old mother's day: up at **dawn**, **kneels** at the fireplace, blows last night's hot bits until they **flicker** and **glow**
- then she must **scrub**, **bake** and **sweep** until the stars **peep** out
- the young lie in bed late, dreaming of ribbons; their days pass in **idleness**; they sigh if the wind moves a **tress** of hair
- she must work because she is **old**; her life's flame grows **feeble** and cold
- tired and steady; rhyming pairs: *blow / glow, sweep / peep, bed / head, idleness / tress, old / cold*
- the point: notice the work of the one first up and last to sleep; share it

Reading I: Umar in Disguise

- **in disguise** = dressed or acting so that others don't know who you are
- from *Stories from Early Islam*; a **Khalifah** (*caliph*) led the Muslims after the Prophet Muhammad; **Umar** the second, after **Abu Bakr**

1. **the ruler**: tall, strong, light **complexion**, a good speaker, fair, strict about rules; simple life though **treasures** passed through his hands; set up a system for running the country; looked after families of men away serving their faith: brought what they needed, wrote and carried their letters
2. **at night**: **anxious** to know how his people lived, he walked the dark streets **unattended** to find their **plight**; heard children crying; a hut
3. **the pot**: a woman by a fire, a pot on it; no food at all: water and **stones**, so the children think a meal is coming and fall asleep waiting
4. **the load**: Umar, **distressed**, hurried to the **State Store**: flour, meat, cooking oil; his servant begged to carry the bag; Umar refused: nobody could carry his **burden** for him
5. **the meal**: the woman cooked; the children had fallen asleep; Umar waited until they were woken and fed
6. **the twist**: the woman, not knowing him, said it would be far better if *he* were the Khalifah, not that **wretched** Umar; Umar said Umar might not be so bad after all, and left

- character map: tall, well-built · fair complexion · a good speaker · just · strict · simple habits · kind-hearted · responsible (carries his own burden): each from what the story shows
- who said it to whom
  - *What is in the pot?* → **Umar to the woman**
  - *You would not carry my burden…* → **Umar to his servant** (*Day of Judgment*: when each person answers to God)
  - *Far better if you were the Khalifah* → **the woman to Umar**
  - *Umar may not be so bad after all* → **Umar to the woman**
- a good ruler? yes: **cares** (walks at night), **acts** at once, **humble** (carries the bag, never says who he is)
- Umar ruled **634–644** CE; started the **Hijri calendar** (years counted from 622 CE)

complexion: the natural color of the skin of your face.
anxious: worried; also, very eager to do or know something.
unattended: alone, with nobody to guard or help.
plight: a bad or difficult situation.
inquire: to ask.
distressed: very upset and worried.
burden: a heavy load; a hard duty.
wretched: very unhappy; or bad and worthless.

Speaking: what did you do yesterday?

- **Sumi** and **Saroj**: she visited a park with her parents; he only watched a movie (interesting)

Question	Answer
What **did** you **do** yesterday?	I **visited** a park.
Who **did** you **go** with?	I **went** with my parents.
Didn't you **do** anything?	I just **watched** a movie.

- **did** carries the past → the verb after it stays **plain**: *Who did you **go** with?*, never *did you went*
- the answer has the past form: *I **went** with my sister.*

Listening: making black tea

- picking **tea leaves**; **Ilam** most famous (also Jhapa, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Terhathum)
- a teacher's steps, each with an **order word**: **first**, **then**, **after that**, **next**, **finally**

- the pictures as printed, numbered: **4 · 2 · 3 · 6 · 5 · 1**

1. a cup of water in the pan
2. boil it on a medium flame
3. 2–3 grams of tea leaves
4. some sugar
5. boil 3–4 minutes
6. pour into cups

- your brother's tea: orders → **past**: *Boil the water* → *He **boiled** the water*; *First, he **put** a cup of water…*

Grammar: past simple, past continuous

Form	Make it	Use	Example
past simple	verb + *-ed*, or irregular	a finished action; actions one after another	*They **played** well and **won**.*
past continuous	**was / were** + verb-ing	going on at a time in the past (the background)	*She **was drawing** when I **met** her.*
past perfect	**had** + past participle	the earlier of two past actions (Unit 17)	*She **had gone** before I **reached**.*

- a long action (a **bar**) cut by a short one (a **dot**): *I **was walking** home when it **started** to rain.*
- **while** goes with the long action: *They saw me while I **was coming** home.*
- **was**: I, he, she, it · **were**: we, you, they (*how many of you → were*)
- irregular: *buy → bought, win → won, meet → met, go → went, find → found, think → thought, sit → sat*; spelling: *hurry → hurried, stop → stopped*
- ask: **finished, or going on when something else happened?**
  - C: a **told** · b **was coming** · c **gave** · d **was watching** · e **said** · f **started** · g **were playing** · h **were**
- finding verbs in *Umar*: past continuous *were serving, was walking, was cooking*; past perfect *had placed, had gone*; *was elected, were awakened*: past simple (passive)

Reading II: Sakela Sili at Tundikhel

- a **first-person** account (*I, we*), in order, morning to evening; the writer **Shital**

1. a **Mangsir** morning: friend **Binda** phones; Shital says *nine*; excited: her first Sakela at **Tundikhel**, the big open ground in Kathmandu
2. they reach Tundikhel at exactly **9:30**; decorated; Sakela is a **Kirat** festival, but many communities watch; a **shrine** in the middle
3. the **Nakso** (chief priest) makes an offering, a hen, at the **Sakela Than** (sacred place, often under a holy tree)
4. after the puja, the Nakso starts the dance; hundreds of all ages, in traditional dress, in a circle; led by the **Silimangpa** (man) and **Silimangma** (woman), to the **dhol** (drum) and **jhyamta** (cymbals)
5. verses from the **Mundhum** (Kirat holy book); the dance tells how the **ancestors** traveled along the Dudh Koshi, Sun Koshi and Tama Koshi and settled by the Bhote Koshi; steps copy a duck, a river bird, a blackbird, a deer, a musk deer
6. she dances almost all day: her own culture; Sakela shows the Kirat people's history, culture and **identity**

- matching: **Ubhauli** → a festival of the Kirat community (the rest as above)
- twice a year: **Ubhauli** (full moon of Baisakh, the farming year begins) · **Udhauli** (full moon of Mangsir, harvest)

Writing

A. My last birthday

- in **order**, morning to night; the **past simple** for each event; how you felt
- a title; *woke up, went, came over, cut the cake*; *While we **were singing**, the lights **went** out!*

B. A story from an outline (the old man and the sticks)

- each point → one or two sentences in the **past simple**
- join with **one day**, **first**, **then**, **next**, **at last**
- a **title**; end with the **moral**: *Unity is strength.*
- the plot: an old man, three sons, about to die → calls them, asks for sticks → each son alone can't break the bundle → all three together break it easily

Project: Umar's story in five or six numbered pictures, a past-simple sentence under each

Extra bit: consonants

- a **consonant** sound: air stopped or squeezed by lips, tongue or teeth; **24** sounds, **21** letters → **ch**, **sh**, **th**
- the 24 (IPA): /p/ pair · /b/ black · /t/ tea · /d/ drink · /k/ car · /g/ game · /f/ phone · /v/ van · /θ/ throne · /ð/ this · /s/ state · /z/ zoo · /ʃ/ shoes · /ʒ/ pleasure · /h/ horse · /tʃ/ church · /dʒ/ job · /m/ mat · /n/ nose · /ŋ/ sing · /l/ lanky · /r/ rat · /w/ water · /j/ yellow
- **breath** (noun) ends in /θ/; **breathe** (verb) in /ð/
- letters aren't sounds: **c** = /k/ (*cat*) or /s/ (*city*); **ph** = /f/; **th** = /θ/ (*thin*) or /ð/ (*this*); **ng** in *sing* = one sound; **/j/** is the **y** of *yellow*; the letter **j** is /dʒ/
- /θ/ and /ð/: tongue tip between the teeth; /θ/ just blow, /ð/ hum as you blow

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Who did you went with?
✓ Who did you **go** with?

✗ What you did yesterday?
✓ What **did you do** yesterday?

✗ While Dawa cooked dinner, the lights went out.
✓ While Dawa **was cooking** dinner, the lights went out.

✗ The children was sleeping.
✓ The children **were** sleeping.

✗ He hurryed to the store.
✓ He **hurried** to the store.

✗ I was finding a note on the road yesterday.
✓ I **found** a note on the road yesterday.

✗ Take a deep breathe.
✓ Take a deep **breath**.