Unit 17 · Surprise and Dismay

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **surprise**: what we say when something unexpected happens; **dismay**: the shock of **bad** news
- the **past perfect** (*had* + past participle): which of two past events came **first**

Getting started

- three strange sights: a **goat up a tree** · a boy writing **with both hands at once** · a drawn apple **exactly like** the picture
  - *What! A goat in a tree? I can't believe it!* · *Wow! How does he do that?* · *Amazing! It looks real!*
- goats really do climb argan trees in Morocco: not impossible, only surprising

Song: Surprised by Joy

- first eight lines of a **sonnet** (14 lines) by **William Wordsworth** (1770–1850), English; *Poems* (1815)
- a sudden rush of **joy**, restless as the wind; he turns at once to share it with the one closest to him
- that person is **gone**: died long ago, in a quiet **tomb** no change in the world can reach
- then the pain: how could he forget, even for a moment? what **beguiled** (tricked) him?
- surprise and dismay **together**: a happy moment, then the shock of remembering a loss
- quick and excited (dashes, *Oh!*), then slower, heavier; rhymes wrap round: *wind … find* with *whom, tomb* between
- old words: **thee** you · **transport** a rush of strong feeling · **vicissitude** a change of luck

Reading I: A Palm Reader

- told by the traveler as *I*; a **mystery story**: it never gives the answer

1. on holiday in the Himalayas, a night in a small, poor village with no **proper** hotel; a restaurant owner offers a bed, asks him to wait at a table outside; sunset, first stars, wood smoke from cooking fires
2. he **notices** an old man at his table: long white beard, clothes nearly in **rags**; offers to tell his **fortune**; the writer laughs, doesn't believe; the old man **takes hold of** his hand, gently but **firmly**
3. the test: *first tell me my past*; the old man stares at the hand a long time; the writer smiles, sure he can't
4. he **describes** the writer's childhood, family, the town he lived in, his life round the world: **every word true**; the writer: *Stop!* how can you know? the old man knows past, present and future: hear your future?
5. the writer **hesitates** (can't decide)
6. the owner comes out: the room is ready; who were you talking to? the old man is **gone**; the owner: *the village lunatic, thinks he can tell fortunes*

- B answers: looking for **somewhere to sleep** · sat outside because **waiting for his room** · the old man wanted to talk about **the traveler's future** · asked about his past because **he did not believe** · what he said was **correct** · about the future he **could not decide** · the owner thought him **mad**
- the surprise: the owner isn't surprised at all; real fortune teller, a man who knew him, a dream? you decide
- **palmistry**: a **pseudoscience** (looks like knowledge, never tested and proved)
- **lunatic** (Latin *luna*, the moon): an old, **unkind** word; say *a person with a mental illness*; being poor or different doesn't mean ill

proper: real, good, the right kind.
notice: to see; to become aware of something.
rags: old, torn cloth; *in rags*: in torn clothes.
fortune: what will happen to you; also luck, or a lot of money.
take hold of: to catch and hold.
firmly: strongly, so that it doesn't move.
hesitate: to stop for a moment because you can't decide.
describe: to say what someone or something is like.

Speaking: surprise and dismay

- **Pasang** tells **Sabina** tomorrow is a holiday → *Hurray!*; **Rina** tells **Bipin** their team lost → *Oh, no!*

Good news: surprise, joy	Bad news: dismay
Wow! That's great!	Oh no!
Hurray! What good news!	That's terrible!
Really? I can't believe it!	What a pity!
What a lovely surprise!	That's bad luck.
Amazing! Congratulations!	I'm so sorry to hear that.
You're joking!	How awful!

- first decide: **good or bad news?**
- bad news about people (an accident, a crash) → a quiet, kind answer, never *Wow!*: *Oh no! That's terrible. Is he badly hurt?*
- **news** and **luck** are uncountable: *such good news*, *What good news!*, *That's bad luck!*; never *a good news*, *a bad luck*

Listening: a trip to Chitwan

- the pictures: a **rhinoceros**, an **elephant**, **crocodiles**, **Tharu** stick dancers; one-horned rhino → **Chitwan**
- **Suman** tells **Shanta** about his trip to Chitwan
  - talking to **Shanta** · his **maternal** home (*mamaghar*) is in Chitwan · sure she will **enjoy** it · she will talk to her **parents** to plan for winter vacation
  - went **last weekend**; visited **Chitwan National Park** and **Bis Hajari Tal** (a lake)
  - Shanta has **never** been; hopes to go in the **winter vacation**
- surprise in the talk: Shanta: *You must be kidding!* (he went with only his sister) · Suman: *Really? It's surprising!* (she had never been)
- Chitwan National Park: Nepal's **first** national park, **1973**; World Heritage Site **1984**; about **953 km²**; rhinos, Bengal tigers, elephants, crocodiles, hundreds of kinds of birds
- the greater one-horned rhino: Asia's largest; male over **two tonnes**; one horn up to about **60 cm**; eats mainly grass

Grammar: three past tenses

Tense	Form	Tells	Example
past simple	*went, gave*	a finished action	*I **went** to school yesterday.*
past continuous	**was / were** + verb-ing	going on at a time; a long action cut by a short one	*She **was dancing** when I **saw** her.*
past perfect	**had** + past participle	the **first** of two past actions	*The thief **had run** away before the police **came**.*

- past participle = the third form: *gone, eaten, written, seen, finished, run, taken, broken, left*
- the earlier action → **had** + participle; the later → past simple
  - *When I reached the bus park, the bus **left**.* = I arrived, then it left (I saw it go)
  - *When I reached the bus park, the bus **had left**.* = it left first; already gone
- with **already**, **by the time**, **after**: *By the time we arrived, the film **had started**.*
- with **before / after** the order is already clear, so the past simple is often fine: *He went home after he finished.*
- a finished time (*yesterday, last year, last night*) and one action → past simple
- C answers: a **published** (last year) · b **was washing** · c **had already finished** · d **was going** (*while*) · e **heard** (the tag *didn't we?*) · f **was doing** · g **came** · h **did not see** (yesterday) · i **went** (*had finished* already shows the first) · j **was dancing**
- B: *was cooking, was preparing* (past continuous) · *had left, had written* (past perfect) · *built, called, went, discovered* (past simple)
- Columbus **sailed** from Spain on 3 August 1492, reached the Bahamas 12 October 1492; people already lived in America

Reading II: at the chemist's

- a **customer** and a **chemist** (sells medicines); a doctor's **prescription**

1. the customer asks the chemist to **make up** his prescription; could he come back at **three**? no: his **wife** has a **stomach-ache**; even now it may take half an hour → he'll go home and come back
2. the third medicine is **out of stock** in the whole market → dismay: *Bother! What do I do now?*; another with the same **formula**?
3. the chemist has one but **won't** sell it without a prescription, **under no circumstances**, not even in an **emergency**; he suggests ringing up the doctor for an **alternative**, and offers his own phone

- answers: a **man** (*sir*, *my wife*) · for his **wife** · a **stomach-ache** · not all the drugs: the third is out of stock · **ring up the doctor** for an alternative
- polite even with a problem: *I wonder if you could…* · *I'm afraid I can't…* · *I'd rather…* · *If I were you, I'd…*
- why no: a prescription is the doctor's choice for **this** patient; a medicine that helps one can harm another; never take someone else's

make up: to prepare (a prescription).
out of stock: none left to sell.
formula: the chemicals a medicine is made of.
emergency: a serious situation needing help at once.
circumstance: a situation; *under no circumstances* = never.
alternative: another possible choice.

Writing: dialogues

A. Complete the dialogue (Simran and a dental clinic)

- B: *Is there any chance of an appointment with Dr. Singh today?* → A: *Could you tell me exactly what the problem is?* → B: *I had my teeth filled by Dr. Singh two weeks ago. …* → A: *But he might be able to see you at 5 p.m.* → B: *Any earlier?* → A: *3 p.m.* → B: *Oh, that would be great.*
- inside *Could you tell me…?* → **statement order**: *what the problem **is**, where she **lives***

B. A trip to Lumbini

- about something: **when**, **who**, **how** to get there, **what** to see, **what** to take
- each speaker named; a new line for each turn; like real friends: surprise (*Really? That's wonderful!*), questions, plans
- to see: the **Maya Devi Temple** (where the Buddha was born), the **Ashoka Pillar**, monasteries built by different countries

Project: a discovery of modern science

- one discovery (penicillin, X-rays, vaccines…): what · who and when · how found · why important · life without it
- five to eight sentences, **past tense** for its story
- e.g. penicillin, **1928**, **Alexander Fleming**: he **had left** dishes of bacteria; a mold **had grown**; bacteria around it **had died**

Extra bit: vowels

- five vowel **letters**, **20** vowel **sounds** (standard British English); mouth open, air free
- ː = long: /ɪ/ *ship* (short), /iː/ *sheep* (long)
- **12** single sounds, **8 diphthongs** (two sounds gliding: /aɪ/ *my*, /aʊ/ *now*)
- singles: /e/ went · /æ/ cat · /ʌ/ fun · /ʊ/ put · /ɒ/ top · /ə/ again · /ɑː/ calm · /ɪ/ pit · /ɔː/ saw · /uː/ you · /ɜː/ bird · /iː/ see
- diphthongs: /aɪ/ cry · /eɪ/ rain · /əʊ/ go · /aʊ/ now · /eə/ hair · /ɪə/ near · /ɔɪ/ boy · /ʊə/ tourist
- **usual** is not an /ʊə/ word (its middle is /ʒ/: *YOO-zhoo-ul*)
- American English says the r in *car, hair, near*, so it has no /eə/, /ɪə/, /ʊə/; both are correct English

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Thank you for such a good news.
✓ Thank you for **such good news**.

✗ It's a bad luck!
✓ **That's bad luck!**

✗ By the time we arrived, the film has started.
✓ By the time we arrived, the film **had started**.

✗ I had seen him yesterday.
✓ I **saw** him yesterday.

✗ They had gone home after they had finished.
✓ They **went** home after they had finished.

✗ Could you tell me where is the post office?
✓ Could you tell me **where the post office is**?

✗ Wow! Your uncle had an accident?
✓ **Oh no!** Is he badly hurt?