Unit 4 · Expressing Wishes

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **express wishes** two ways: **good wishes** for others (*Happy Lhosar! Good luck!*) and **wishes about your own life** (*I wish I had a bicycle.*)
- *Some Festivals of Nepal*, Niru's birthday **email**; **I wish** + past; the **past simple**; describing a festival; greeting cards; *Three Wishes*

Getting started

- festival pictures: **Holi** (colors), **Eid** (prayers at the mosque, the Quran), **Dashain** (tika, jamara, the **ping**), **Chhath** (offerings to the sun in a river)
- **song:** a list of good wishes for a friend (*I wish you good friends… Wanna wish you freedom…*); every line wishes something good for **someone else**; *wanna* = *want to*, spoken only
- **why wish?** to show we **care**; to **hope** for what we don't have

Reading I: Some Festivals of Nepal

- for each festival: **who**, **why**, **what people do**

Lhosar (*lho* = year, *sar* = new)	Celebrated by
Tamu Lhosar	the **Gurung** community
Sonam Lhosar	the **Tamang** and **Yolmo** communities
Gyalbo Lhosar	the **Tibetan** and **Sherpa** communities

- **Lhosar:** dancing, singing, family meet-ups, **exchanging** greetings and gifts, praying together, special food
- **Gai Jatra** (*gai* = cow, *jatra* = procession):
  - why: to **commemorate** the people who died during the year
  - belief: **cows** help the **deceased** reach **Yama**, the god of death
  - cows **decorated** and led through the streets; families of the dead join the **procession**, give out food packets and fruit
  - to ease the grief: rallies, men in women's dresses, songs, the **Lakhe** dance
- **Buddha Jayanti:** a national festival, the day **Lord Buddha** was born in **Lumbini**
  - Buddhists from all over the world visit Nepal
  - Boudhanath, Swayambhunath, Lumbini decorated with **prayer flags**
  - **monks** gather to pray and **chant** Buddhist **mantras**
  - people visit stupas; **kheer** (sweet rice pudding) in every home

Key words

combination: two or more things joined together.
observe: celebrate a festival or special day.
exchange: give and receive something.
commemorate: remember with respect, often with a ceremony.
deceased: dead; *the deceased* = the dead person.
decorate: make more beautiful by putting things on it.
procession: a line of people moving slowly, in a ceremony.
monk: a man in a monastery who gives his life to religion.
chant: say or sing words again and again.
memorable: worth remembering for a long time.
presence: being there.
occasion: a special event.
chorus: all together (*in chorus*).
hug: hold someone close in your arms.

- word forms in sentences: *Buddhist **monks*** (plural); *Do they **observe** Dashain?* (plain verb); *He is **decorating** the car.* (-ing)

Pronunciation: good wishes

- strongest on the main word; the voice **falls** warmly at the end

Wish	When	Reply
Happy Eid / Dashain / Lhosar!	the festival day	*Thank you! Same to you!*
Happy birthday to you!	a birthday	*Thank you so much!*
Good luck!	before an exam, match, interview	*Thanks!*
Have a nice journey!	someone leaving on a trip	*Thank you.*
Have a wonderful holiday!	a holiday starting	*Thanks, you too!*
Enjoy the meal!	food is served	*Thank you.*

- festival greetings: ***Eid Mubarak!*** (Blessed Eid), ***Tashi Delek!*** (Lhosar, good luck)

Grammar I: I wish…

- a wish about **now** that isn't true: the verb goes **one step back into the past**

True now	The wish
I **don't have** a bicycle.	I wish I **had** a bicycle.
I **live** far from school.	I wish I **lived** near school.
I **can't** swim.	I wish I **could** swim.
I **am** short.	I wish I **were** taller.
It **is** cold.	I wish it **weren't** so cold.
We **have to** wear a tie.	I wish we **didn't have to** wear a tie.

- **were** for every person after *I wish*; *was* is heard in speech; in an exam, **were** is safe
- **If only** = a stronger *I wish*, the same past form: *If only I **had** a banana!*
- **wish** (not true, unlikely) vs **hope** (may really happen) + present or *will*
  - *I wish I were a bird.*
  - *I **hope** I **pass** the exam. / I **hope** I live for a hundred years!*

Listening: three birthdays

	From	Facts
Martha	**Taiwan**	a **flight attendant**; celebrates with **her family** (a restaurant: dumplings, noodles); money from her parents and **grandmother**; a party this year
Kenji	**Tokyo**	birthday **May 14**; picnic in the **park** with friends; family buys **presents**; this year a **guitar**; turning **18**
Sun-Hyi	Busan, **Korea**	birthday **next week**; **twenty** a very special age; friends throwing a party; **her mother** cooks a special meal

Reading II: Niru's email

- **Niru** to her friend **Sangita**: her last birthday, the most **memorable**
- **morning: 15 Jeth 2078**, she turned **12**; woke at 6:30 a.m. to her family **singing a special song**; gifts
- cousins **Sunita and Arun** came to surprise her: a big **box of chocolates**, a **CD** of her favorite singer
- breakfast by Mum; a big cake from Dad; calls from relatives and friends
- **evening:** a message from **Heena**: she knew it was the birthday but was busy **planning a surprise**; come to my house, I'll pick you up; her parents said OK
- **the surprise:** at Heena's house **all her friends** were waiting with balloons and flowers; shouted *Happy Birthday, Niru!* **in chorus**; hugs, gifts, roses; her favorite song; she cut the cake **again**; a meal, dancing
- ends: *I missed you a lot. Please come to my home soon.*
- **email to a friend:** *Hi Sangita,* → why you write → the news in time order → a line about the friend → short sign-off + name
- **reply as Sangita:** thank her → how you feel about the news → why you couldn't be there → your news → answer the invitation → *Love,* + name

Grammar II: the past simple

- actions **started and finished** in the past, often with *yesterday, last night, in 2015, two days ago*

	Pattern	Example
+	past form	*I **met** him in 2015. We **went** to Pokhara.*
?	**did** + plain verb	*Where **did** you **go** yesterday?*
–	**didn't** + plain verb	*They **didn't go** to Pokhara.*

- the past is shown **once**: by *did / didn't*, then the plain verb
- **regular** + **-d / -ed**
  - ending in **e**: + *d*: *danced, arrived*
  - one vowel + one consonant: **double** it: *hug* → *hugged*
  - vowel + **y**: keep the *y*: *enjoy* → *enjoyed*
- **irregular** (from the email)
  - is → **was**
  - are → **were**
  - have → **had**
  - tell → **told**
  - buy → **bought**
  - give → **gave**
  - wake → **woke**
  - cut → **cut**
  - come → **came**
  - sing → **sang**
  - say → **said**
  - see → **saw**
  - make → **made**
  - know → **knew**
- more: take → **took**, pay → **paid**, put → **put**, speak → **spoke**, hear → **heard**, run → **ran**, spend → **spent**
- *but* often signals the negative: *I called the waiter but she **didn't hear** me.*

Speaking

- **good wishes:** *Happy birthday! Many happy returns of the day! · Have a wonderful holiday! · Good luck in your exam! All the best! · Happy Lhosar in advance!*
- **wishes about your life:** *I wish I were taller / rich. · I wish I had a big house / a younger brother. · I wish my neighbors were nicer.*
- what can really happen: **hope**: *I hope I pass the exam.*

Writing

- **a festival description**, in the **present simple** (every year): what → who and why → what people do → how you feel; *observe, decorate, exchange, procession*
- **a school day last year** (Children's Day, Democracy Day, School Day), in the **past simple**, in time order: *first, then, after that, in the afternoon, finally*
- **greeting card** (project):
  1. a picture on the front
  2. the person's name: *Dear Didi,*
  3. the wish, maybe a short line on why the day is special
  4. your name: *With love, Aaryan*

Extra bit: three wishes (a folk tale)

- a poor couple **lament** their poverty; the man: if only a fairy would **grant** a wish…
- a fairy grants **three** wishes, says wish for something good
- **1:** the hungry wife wishes she **had a banana** → it lands on her plate
- **2:** the angry husband wishes the banana **were hanging from her nose** → it sticks
- **3:** together they wish it **a thousand miles away** → gone; as poor as before
- **foolish:** all three wasted (hunger, anger, undoing); **lesson:** think before you speak, especially when hungry or angry
- but **content** at the end: no more wishes, satisfied for the rest of their lives

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ I wish I can swim.
✓ I wish I **could** swim.

✗ I wish I have a smartphone.
✓ I wish I **had** a smartphone.

✗ I wish I pass the exam.
✓ I **hope** I **pass** the exam.

✗ I wish we don't have a test today.
✓ I wish we **didn't have** a test today.

✗ Where did you went?
✓ Where did you **go**?

✗ She didn't bought anything.
✓ She didn't **buy** anything.

✗ I didn't saw him.
✓ I didn't **see** him.

✗ hug → huged
✓ **hugged**

✗ Wanna wish you… (in writing)
✓ **I want to** wish you…