# Unit 7 · Opinions and Feelings

STUDY NOTES

## The unit in one line

- **give your opinion** (what you think) **with a reason**; an opinion + a reason = an **argument**
- an article (*Fast Food*), a speech (*The Pen Is Mightier than the Sword*); **to + verb** for a purpose; **present simple** vs **present continuous**; punctuation; phonemic spellings

## Getting started

- **opinion** = what you think or feel; not a fact, others may disagree
- *I think studying together is better **because** we can explain things to each other.*
- **song** (Wendy Cope): a boy says the earth is **flat**; long **altercations**; the girl tries to prove him wrong; he calls her reasons **unsound**, tells her not to shout, **stands his ground**; meanwhile the planet stays **round**
- lesson: **winning an argument doesn't make you right**; facts don't change (Eratosthenes measured the round earth from a shadow)

## Reading I: Fast Food (an opinion article)

- **the problem:** people are getting fat from too much **junk food**: plenty of **calories**, few **nutrients** (vitamins, minerals, fiber)
- **where it comes from:** factories add **refined** sugar, salt, oil to make it taste good, so it sells and **makes money**; your health is your own job
- **why we eat too much:** big sweet drinks, whole bags of chips, still hungry; the brain asks for the missing nutrients
- **real food:** meat, vegetables, fruit for most of history; refined sugar, white flour, vegetable oil are new
- **America:** many people **obese**; real food costs more and is sold in big supermarkets, so **more poor people** are obese
- **opinion:** your body is your most **valuable** thing: treat it like a **temple**, not a **garbage** bin; *I think you shouldn't eat junk food.*
- **not real food: potato chips** (apple, bean, chicken wing are real)
- **fact or opinion?** *Junk food has a lot of calories.* (fact) · *You shouldn't eat junk food.* (opinion)

## Reading II: The Pen Is Mightier than the Sword (a speech)

- **speech** = words to be said aloud; its plan:
  1. **thanks** the audience, names the **topic** (a **proverb**)
  2. **arguments** with **examples**
  3. **conclusion**, thanks again
- the arguments:
  - a sword gives **enormous** power and **supremacy**, but can **enslave** only the **body**, never the mind or heart
  - power won by force **doesn't last**: **Alexander the Great**, **Napoleon**, **Hitler** all defeated
  - writers, poets, scientists live on through their **exemplary** work
  - humans are above animals by their **minds** (**mental faculty**), not strength; the pen carries those thoughts
  - **violence** never helps; **adopt** non-violence, change the world with your pen
- **true / false:** thanks everyone ✓; force can enslave the heart and mind ✗ (only the body); writers remembered ✓; the mind makes us superior ✓

## Key words

**junk food**: many calories, few nutrients.
**calorie**: a unit of the energy in food.
**nutrient**: what a living thing needs to live and grow.
**refined**: made pure by taking other substances out.
**obese**: very fat, in an unhealthy way.
**valuable**: very useful or important.
**garbage**: waste you throw away.
**proverb**: a short saying with a lesson.
**mightier**: more powerful (*mighty, mightier, mightiest*).
**enormous**: extremely large.
**supremacy**: more power or status than everyone else.
**enslave**: make somebody a slave.
**exemplary**: so good that people should copy it.
**violence**: physical force to hurt or damage.
**adopt**: accept and start to use.

## Pronunciation: phonemic spellings

- one symbol = **one sound**; **'** comes **before** the loud syllable
- symbols: /ɪ/ *sit* · /iː/ *see* · /uː/ *food* · /æ/ *cat* · /ɑː/ *car* · /ə/ weak *uh* · /aɪ/ *fine* · /əʊ/ *go* · /dʒ/ *jam* · /j/ *yes*

| Symbols | Word | Say it |
|---|---|---|
| /ˈnjuːtriənt/ | nutrient | NYOO-tree-unt |
| /rɪˈfaɪnd/ | refined | ri-FIND |
| /əʊˈbiːs/ | obese | oh-BEES (ends in /s/) |
| /ˈvæljuəbl/ | valuable | VAL-yoo-uh-bl |
| /ˈgɑːbɪdʒ/ | garbage | GAH-bij |

## Grammar I: to + verb for a purpose

- **to + plain verb** after an action says **why** (the purpose); *to* + verb never changes, even in the past

| What someone does | Why |
|---|---|
| She studies hard | **to get** better grades. |
| He goes to the gym | **to be** healthy. |
| She went to the park | **to play** with her friends. |
| He went to Kathmandu | **to see** the Dharahara. |

- *for* + a **noun** is fine: *I went to the shop **for** bread.*; never *for* + verb
- **we learn English** to travel, to speak to other people, to get a good job, to understand films and music
- **we exercise** to keep fit, to be healthy, to run faster

## Listening: bad habits

- **habit** = something done again and again, often without thinking
- the speaker: **everyone** has bad habits; he wishes **other people** would stop theirs
- the habits:
  - **smoking**: he quit; **some** smokers don't think it bad
  - **noise while eating**: rude in **England**, polite in Japan (slurping noodles)
  - **being late** for meetings: it annoys him
  - **talking loudly** on the phone in public
  - **bad driving**: motorists should think about their habits

## Speaking: giving your opinion

| Gentle | Stronger | Strongest |
|---|---|---|
| *I think… · In my opinion,…* | *I believe…* | *I strongly believe that… · I'm sure that…* |

- *perhaps*, *might* show doubt; always add **because…**
- **right or wrong?** an old man at a **zebra crossing** (right); a girl **feeding a goat** (good); children **cleaning the riverbank** (right); an old woman **begging** (wrong that she has to)
- **city or village?** agree or disagree with two or three reasons, and admit one point for the other side: *It's true that…, but…*

## Grammar II: present simple and present continuous

| | Present simple | Present continuous (*am/is/are* + -ing) |
|---|---|---|
| + | She **reads** every day. | She **is reading** now. |
| – | She **doesn't read** comics. | She **isn't reading** now. |
| ? | **Does** she **read** comics? | **Is** she **reading** now? |
| use | **habits**, **facts**, timetables | **now**; **around now**; a **plan already made** |
| with | every day, often, usually, never, on Sundays | now, at the moment, these days, next week |

- now: *Please be quiet. The children **are sleeping**. · Look! It's **raining**.*
- around now: *I **am reading** a story these days.*
- a plan: *Mina **is going** to a new school next month. They **aren't coming** tomorrow.*
- not in **-ing**: *know, like, want, need, understand, believe, remember, belong*

## Writing

- **punctuation:**
  - *I know what you want.* (no comma, no ?)
  - *You don't know me well, **do you?*** (comma before the tag)
  - *He said, **"I am a student."*** (comma after *said*, quotation marks)
  - *Ugh! Why are you yelling at me?*
- **Winston's paragraph:** capitals (*Winston, I, T-shirt*, each sentence), full stops, commas before *and* joining sentences, after *However* and the *when* part, **he's**
- **opinion paragraph:**
  1. your opinion first: *In my opinion,…*
  2. two or three reasons, each with an example: *First,… For example,… Second,…*
  3. close with the opinion in new words: *So, I believe that…*
- **project:** a speech competition: a topic to agree or disagree with, sides for and against, plan (greeting → topic and side → three arguments → conclusion → thanks), 2–3 minutes, stand still, look up, pause

## Extra bit: the punctuation marks

| Mark | Job | Example |
|---|---|---|
| **.** full stop | ends a telling sentence | *Anjila went to the market.* |
| **?** question mark | ends a question | *When did he leave?* |
| **!** exclamation mark | strong feeling | *What a beautiful flower!* |
| **,** comma | a short pause; lists; before a name spoken to | *Thanks for all your help, Nitu.* |
| **;** semicolon | joins two linked sentences, no *and/but* | *It was raining hard; we stayed at home.* |
| **:** colon | before a list or explanation, after a full sentence | *She bought four things: a shirt, …* |
| **-** hyphen | joins words into one | *part-time, a ten-year-old boy* |
| **'** apostrophe | letters left out; who owns | *He's done it. Diksha's bag* |
| **" "** quotation marks | exact words | *"Don't go outside," she said.* |

- **hyphen** (-) short, joins words; **dash** (–) longer, with spaces, a strong comma

**COMMON MISTAKES**

✗ Nirjala goes to the library for read books.
✓ … **to read** books.

✗ Nirjala goes to the library to reads books.
✓ … to **read** books.

✗ She went to the park to played.
✓ … to **play**. (*to* + plain verb)

✗ I am knowing the answer.
✓ I **know** the answer.

✗ Look! It rains. / It raining.
✓ Look! **It's raining.**

✗ You don't know me well do you?
✓ You don't know me well, **do you?** (a comma before the tag)

✗ It was raining hard; and we stayed at home.
✓ It was raining hard; we stayed at home.

✗ I bought; apples, bananas and oranges.
✓ I bought three things: apples, bananas and oranges. (a **colon** after a full sentence)