Unit 11 · Describing People and Places

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **describe people and places**: a biography (**Dr. Sanduk Ruit**), a guide to **Kathmandu**, objects (*made of, used for*)
- join two sentences with **who, which, where**; make **questions for a given answer**; **adjective or adverb** (*clear / clearly*)

Getting started

- describe a picture in five sentences: **who or what → what is happening → details** (clothes, colors) → a **guess** (*probably, must be*)
  - *This is a farmer. He is plowing a field with two oxen. He is probably getting it ready for rice.*
- **song**: so happy she could float into space; rhymes:
  - **space**: face, place, race, base, chase
  - **you**: blue, new, true, two, through
- rhyme is the **sound**, not the spelling (*you, two, through, blue*)

Reading I: Dr. Sanduk Ruit (a biography)

- **biography** = a real person's life, by someone else, in time order, with dates
- an **eye surgeon** (**ophthalmologist**)
- **childhood**: born **4 September 1954**, **Olangchunggola**, **Taplejung** (far east); no electricity, school or health post; the **second** of four children
- **school**: nearest in **Darjeeling** (India), **eleven days' walk**; father, a **small businessman**, put education first; **SLC 1969**, Siddhartha Vanasthali School, **Kathmandu**
- **studies**: MBBS, King George's Medical College, **Lucknow** (India), **1972–1976**; then Delhi, the Netherlands, Australia, the USA
- **1980**: met **Fred Hollows** (Australian eye surgeon) on a blindness survey: his **mentor**; everyone whose blindness is **treatable** has a right to see
- **1994**: **Tilganga Eye Centre**, Kathmandu (with the Fred Hollows Foundation), now the **Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology**
- **1995**: a new, far **cheaper lens**, as good as western methods; used in **60+ countries**
- **awards**: **Ramon Magsaysay** (2006), India's **Padma Shri** (2018), Nepal's **Suprasiddha Prabal Janasewashree (First)** (2021); co-founder of the **Himalayan Cataract Project**
- **cataract** = the eye's lens clouding; cured in a short operation (a clear plastic lens put in); about **120,000** people's sight restored by Ruit himself (by 2024)
- **true / false:** born in the early 50s (**F**: 1954, the mid fifties); eldest (**F**: second); father valued education (**T**); SLC in India (**F**: Kathmandu); MBBS in Nepal (**F**: Lucknow); cheaper lenses (**T**); Tilganga renamed (**T**)

Key words

priority: more important than other things.
restore: bring back what was there before.
remarkable: unusual, worth noticing.
treatable: that can be cured.
tribute: something done to show respect.
prestigious: respected and admired.
mission: an important aim.
surgeon: a doctor who operates.
mentor: a wise guide for someone younger.
hub: a central point.
carved: with patterns cut into it.
adjoining: next to, joined to.
pronouncements: formal public statements.
outskirts: the parts farthest from the center.
dome: a round roof on a circular base.
vulnerable: weak, easily hurt.
sprawl: building spreading without a plan.

Pronunciation: the -ologists

- **-logy** = a subject; **-logist** = the person; stress on **-ol-**: oph-thal-**MOL**-o-gist, zo-**OL**-o-gist, psy-**CHOL**-o-gist
- **ophthalmologist** (eyes), **radiologist** (X-rays, scans), **biotechnologist** (useful products from living things), **zoologist** (animals), **psychologist** (the mind), **dermatologist** (skin), **ornithologist** (birds), **criminologist** (crime)
- traps: *ophthalmologist* = off-thal- (*ph* = f, an *h* after *t*); *psychologist*: silent *p*, *ch* = k

Grammar I: who, which, where

Word	For	Example
who	people	*She is the girl **who** cuts my hair.*
which	things, animals	*Olangchunggola is a place **which** lies in Taplejung.*
where	places (what happens there)	*This is the house **where** I was born.*

- the joined part (a **relative clause**) comes straight after its noun
- the old word drops out (*he, she, it, them, there*):
  - *Dr. Ruit is an ophthalmologist. He cures people's eyes.* → *… an ophthalmologist **who** cures people's eyes.*
  - *That's the shop. I bought my TV from that shop.* → *That's the shop **where** I bought my TV.*
- **that** can replace *who / which* (Grade 8)
- answers: *who* (a friend) · *which* (products) · *which* (the pen) · *where* (the park) · *who* (people) · *which* (the film) · *who* (the man) · *which* (the computer) · *who* · *where* (the house)
- the octopus has **three hearts**, **blue** blood (copper)

Listening: what is it?

- **fan**: made of **plastic** and metal; keeps the room **cool**
- **pillow**: **rectangular**; for **sleeping**
- **wheelbarrow**: moves things in the **garden**; one wheel, two **handles**
- **coffee**: **brown**; gives us **energy**

- describing an object, three questions:
  - **What is it made of?** *It is **made of** wood.*
  - **What does it look like?** *It is long and thin.*
  - **What is it used for?** *It is **used for** writing.* (+ -ing)
- **made of**: the material still shows (*a table made of wood*); **made from**: it has changed (*paper made from wood*)

Speaking

- describe and identify with **who**: *The woman **who is wearing a white coat** is a doctor. The man **who is sawing the wood** is a carpenter.*
- the pictures show most jobs as men's; in Nepal women fly planes, drive buses, serve in the police: fairer to show both
- a scene in five sentences: where, who, what each is doing, what is around them

Reading II: Kathmandu

- the capital, in a valley, **1,324 m** (4,344 ft); founded in **723** by **Gunakamadeva**
- name from **Kasthamandap** (*kastha* = wood, *mandap* = pavilion): said to be built from **one tree**; dated by tests to the 7th century CE
- **1970s**: new roads and air travel → the **hub** of transport
- old parts: narrow streets, brick houses, **carved** doors and windows; the **1934** earthquake → modern buildings
- the Malla kings' palace, with the **Taleju temple** (built by **Mahendra Malla**); **Hanuman** guards its gate → **Hanuman Dhoka**
- **Tundikhel**, the **parade ground** to the east: government **pronouncements** once made first to the army
- **Dharahara**, the tower built by **Bhimsen Thapa**
- **outskirts**: Rana palaces; **Singha Durbar**, once the Rana prime ministers' home, now the government's secretariat
- **Boudhanath**: a great white **dome**, about **3 miles (5 km) northeast**, sacred to Tibetan Buddhists
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site 1979** (history and culture); **in Danger 2003** (**urban sprawl**), off the list **2007**
- **25 April 2015**: a **7.8** earthquake, about 50 miles (80 km) northwest; about **9,000** dead, **16,800** injured; old center badly damaged, tens of thousands homeless

Grammar II: questions for an answer

Word	Asks for
what	a thing, a name
where	a place
why	a reason
who	a person
when / what time	a time
whose	the owner
how	the way, what it was like
how many	a number
what kind of	a type

- steps:
  1. the question word for the answer part
  2. helping verb before the subject; none → **do / does / did** + plain verb
  3. leave the answer out
- *They went to **Spain**.* → ***Where did** they **go**?*
- the answer is the **subject** → no *do*: *Fred Hollows helped Ruit.* → ***Who helped** Ruit?*
- answers: *What does he write? · What did the girls watch? · What time are you leaving? · Whose book is this? · How does he run? · What kind of music do you like? · How many students are there? · How was the film?*

Writing

- **a biography**, six paragraphs:
  1. full name, date and place of birth
  2. early life
  3. education, achievements
  4. work, contribution to society
  5. why famous
  6. awards
- past simple for the life (*was born, studied*); present for what is still true (*He **is** a surgeon.*); join with *who, which, where*
- **my village or town**: name → location → area → where the name comes from → special features → likes and dislikes; exact facts (numbers, directions) + words to see and hear it
- **project:** a poster or mind map of a famous person: name and picture in the middle; branches for born, studied, work, contributions, awards; short notes with dates; sources at the bottom

Extra bit: adjective or adverb?

- **adjective** describes a noun: *a **clear** voice*; **adverb** says **how**: *speak **clearly***
- most adverbs = adjective + **-ly**; **good** → **well**
- answers: **clearly** (pronounces) · **clear** (weather) · **easy** (question) · **easily** (answered) · **well** (speak) · **good** (your English is)

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ This is the pen which I bought it yesterday.
✓ This is the pen which I bought yesterday.

✗ He is the man which sells vegetables.
✓ He is the man **who** sells vegetables.

✗ Who did help Ruit?
✓ **Who helped** Ruit?

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

✗ She sings very good.
✓ She sings very **well**.

✗ Ruit was born in the early fifties.
✓ … in **1954**, the mid fifties.