Unit 14 · Talking about Quantity

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **quantity**: **How tall / high / far / long / much / many…?** and answers with numbers and units
- **K2**, Rara Lake (an idea map), the Panama Canal, a school **prospectus**; **subject–verb agreement**; word stress; *some, any, a few, a little*

Getting started

- **How + adjective + is + the thing?**; **How much** for amounts and weights:
  - *How tall is Mount Everest?* → **8,848.86 m** (for a mountain, *How high* is more usual)
  - *How much does the sack of sugar weigh?* → **5 kg**
  - *How far is the school?* → **five kilometers** away
  - *How tall is the tree?* → **about 20 meters**
- **song** (*Tall Trees*, **Eileen Mathias**): trees reach the sky, watch the clouds go by; at **dusk** birds come home to nests in the trees; at night the moon shines, the trees peep
  - yes / no: trees go above the clouds (**No**: watch them); birds back at midday (**No**: at dusk); nests on rocks (**No**: in the trees)

Reading I: Mt. K2 (a factual text)

- **second highest** in the world, **8,611 m**; local names **Dapsang**, **Chogori**; also **Mount Godwin Austen** (H. H. Godwin Austen, English geographer, its first **surveyor**)
- in the **Karakoram Range**, **Gilgit-Baltistan** (Kashmir, ruled by Pakistan); its foot on the Godwin Austen Glacier
- **1856**: **T. G. Montgomerie** (Survey of India) listed the Karakoram peaks K1, K2…: **K** = Karakoram, the **second peak he measured** (not because it is second highest)
- attempts: **1902** Anglo-Swiss (the first); then Italian and American teams; none reached the top
- **first to the top**: an **Italian expedition**, by the **Abruzzi Ridge**, 6 p.m., **31 July 1954**; **Mario Puchoz** died of pneumonia
- why so hard: **frequent, violent storms**, steep slopes, great height
- **fewer deaths** than Everest in all, but a **much larger share** of its climbers die (numbers ≠ shares)
- **true / false:** the highest (**F**: second); unknown till the 1900s (**F**: 1856); Americans first tried (**F**: Anglo-Swiss); no death in 1954 (**F**: Puchoz); Everest easier (**T**)
- Nepal's mountains: Everest 8,849 · **Kangchenjunga** 8,586 · **Lhotse** 8,516 · **Makalu** 8,485 · **Cho Oyu** 8,188 · **Dhaulagiri** 8,167 · **Manaslu** 8,163 · **Annapurna** 8,091 m
  - compare: *How high is Lhotse? Is it higher than Makalu?*

Key words

glacier: a huge, slow river of ice.
survey: measure and map land.
expedition: an organized journey with a purpose.
ascend: go up, climb.
summit: a mountain's highest point.
conquer: defeat; climb to the top.
elevation: height above sea level.
proportion: a share of the whole.
route: a way.
salient: most important.
underprivileged: poorer, with fewer chances.
marginalized: pushed to the edge of society.
ensure: make sure.
nominal: very small (of a price).
deprived of: kept from having.
inclusive: leaving no one out.

- crossword: **located**, **discovered**, **ascended**, **route** (across); **conquer**, **constitutes**, **elevation**, **expedition**, **summit** (down)

Pronunciation: word stress

- one syllable louder and longer; dictionaries mark it ' before it
- **-tion**: stress just before it: expe'dition, ele'vation, 'fraction, pro'portion
- first syllable: 'portion, 'glacier, 'summit, 'conquer, 'fraction
- later: expe'dition, ap'proximately, ele'vation, pro'portion, suc'cessfully

Writing I: from an idea map to a description

- an **idea map**: the topic in the middle, a fact on each branch
- to a paragraph:
  1. a **topic sentence** (the place, something general)
  2. **each branch one sentence**: where → what → size, height, depth → what surrounds it
  3. **join** with *it, also, and*
  4. a **closing sentence**: why special
- **Rara Lake**:
  - the **biggest freshwater lake** in Nepal
  - **Mugu** District, Karnali Province
  - **2,990 m** above sea level
  - about **10.8 km²**
  - deepest **167 m**
  - in **Rara National Park**, Nepal's **smallest** national park

Grammar I: subject–verb agreement

- the verb matches its subject: one → singular (*is, has, -s*); more → plural (*are, have*)

Rule	Example
one of + plural: singular	*One of my friends **is** rich.*
the subject decides, not the nearest noun	*The man with roses **looks** like your brother.*
money, time, weight, distance: singular	*Ten kilos of sugar **is** enough. Twenty dollars **is** not small.*
every, each, someone, everyone, nobody: singular	*Every generation **has** its own ways.*
uncountable: singular	*This furniture **costs** a lot.*
either … or / neither … nor: the nearer one	*Either you or Hari **is** top.*
police, people, cattle: plural	*Police **were** investigating.*
a lot of / some + plural: plural	*A lot of changes **have** occurred.*

- cover the words between subject and verb: *The man … looks*

- answers: **has** · **consists** · **have** · **attracts** (the scenery) · **is** · **were** · **has** · **looks**

Listening: the Panama Canal

- a **canal**: a waterway dug by people, for water to fields or for ships
- the answers: the **Atlantic** · the **French** (1881) · almost **25,000** died · handed to Panama in **2000** (noon, 31 December 1999) · **ships**
- opened **1914**; about **14,000** ships a year

Reading II: a school prospectus

- a **prospectus**: a school tells new students and parents about itself, to **inform** and **attract**
- its parts: **introduction → vision, mission → programs → main features → admission → fees, scholarships → contact**
- **Saraswati Secondary School, Ilam**:
  - founded **2018 BS** (about 1961 AD); Grades 1–12 since **2070 BS**
  - vision: a center of **academic excellence**; mission: **quality education** for **underprivileged and marginalized** children; **inclusive**
  - programs: Montessori **pre-primary**, **basic** (1–8), **secondary** (9–12)
  - features: trained teachers, meetings with guardians, **support classes**, computer lab, library, science lab, a **cafeteria**; **scholarships**; **entrance test** for Grades 6, 9, 11
  - **nominal** fees (bus, Grades 11–12): no one **deprived of** education
  - Ilam Municipality–9; **ssschool2018@gmail.com**
- **true / false:** over 50 years old (**T**); a remote village (**F**: a municipality); meetings with guardians (**T**); cafeteria (**T**); very expensive (**F**: nominal)

Speaking and Grammar II: How…?

Ask	About	Example
How tall	people, trees, buildings	*How tall is your father? — He's 5 feet tall.*
How high	mountains, how far up	*How high can you reach?*
How long	length, or time	*How long is the Koshi? — About 720 km. How long does it take? — 20 minutes.*
How far	distance	*How far is your school from the bus park? — 3 km.*
How much	amount, weight, price	*How much kerosene do you need? How much do you weigh?*
How many	a countable number	*How many students are there?*
How old / wide / deep / heavy	age, width, depth, weight	*How wide is the window? — 3 feet.*

- order: **How tall + is + the tree?**; other verbs: **How much water + do + you + drink?**; a helper moves in front: **How high + can + you + reach?**
- answer: number + unit (+ adjective): *It's about 20 meters tall. It's about a 20-minute walk.*; *about* = rounded
- matching: house → **about 20 feet** · East–West Highway → **1,027.67 km** · water → **2 liters** · Kathmandu to Pokhara → **about 200 km** · younger brother → **3'5"** (3 feet 5 inches) · bag → **about 2.5 kg**
- rearranged: *How far has the pilot reached? · How long is the Karnali Bridge? · How tall is a giraffe? · How high can you reach? · How long is your ruler?*

Writing II: a prospectus for your school

- short parts under headings, in the **present simple** (*The school **offers**… Students **wear**…*)
- introduction (name, founded) · vision · mission · programs · main features · admission · fees · scholarships · contact

Extra bit: words for quantity

Word	With	Example
some	both; positive, offers	*We saw some tigers. Would you like some tea?*
any	both; questions, negatives	*I haven't got any money.*
many	countable	*I have many friends.*
several	countable: more than two	*She has several books.*
a few	countable: some	*I have a few pages left.*
few	countable: almost none	*Few people came.*
a little	uncountable: some	*Would you like a little water?*
much	uncountable	*I don't have much money.*
a bit of	uncountable (everyday)	*Add a bit of salt.*

- **a few, a little** = some (positive); **few, little** = almost none

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ One of the boys play the flute.
✓ One of the boys **plays** the flute.

✗ Ten kilos of sugar are enough.
✓ Ten kilos of sugar **is** enough.

✗ The police is coming.
✓ The police **are** coming.

✗ How much students are there?
✓ How **many** students are there?

✗ K2 is called K2 because it is the second highest.
✓ … the **second peak measured** in the Karakoram.

Science Playground, Katunje, Bhaktapur
https://science-playground.com/learn/grade-7-english/talking-about-quantity