Unit 15 · Probability

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **probability**: how sure we are: **must, may, might, could, should, can't**; and the **future perfect** (*will have done*)
- a factual text on **climate change**, a weather forecast, a poem (*Gratefulness*); phonemic spellings; the future of the earth

Getting started

- **may, might** = possible; **must** = almost sure, from a clue:
  - *The bulls **might** fight.*
  - *It **may** rain soon. The clouds are thick and gray, so there **must** be a storm coming.*
- **song**: a child at school: not the tallest, the smallest voice; on **tiptoe** can nearly touch the **stars**; one day the speaker's **words** might change the world
  - *I **may not be** the tallest* (possible); *my words **might** change the world*
- being small now doesn't mean being small forever

Reading I: Climate Change (a factual text)

- **climate** = a place's usual weather over many years (average temperature, rainfall); **climate change** = a long-term change in those averages
- **global climate change**: warmer temperatures, changing rainfall, **rising sea levels**, **shrinking glaciers**, Himalayan ice melting faster, plants flowering at different times
- the climate has **always** changed, even before people; but the last **150 years** much faster than expected
- the air near the ground about **2 °F** warmer than a hundred years ago (2 °F ≈ **1.1 °C**); recent years the warmest in centuries
- expected: heavier rain in **hurricanes**, worse **droughts** and **heat waves**; one or two degrees harm plants and animals
- the cause of the last 50–100 years' warming: **human activities**
- the **greenhouse effect**: some gases in the **atmosphere** trap heat, like a greenhouse's glass; **burning fuel** (factories, cars, buses) adds more
- one system: **oceans, land, air, plants, animals, the sun's energy**; **NASA**'s **satellites** watch it from space
- **true / false:**
  - glaciers high in the Himalayas (**T**)
  - a global issue (**T**)
  - not seen in the seas (**F**: sea levels rise)
  - affects people (**T**)
  - human activities increase it (**T**)
  - the USA's carbon dioxide may melt our snow (**T**: the air is shared)
- **Nepal**, hit hard though it adds little:
  - glaciers shrinking, **glacial lakes** growing (Imja, Tsho Rolpa)
  - irregular rain: floods, landslides, dry spells
  - less snow, drying springs
  - more **forest fires**
  - mosquitoes and **dengue** in hill towns
  - apples grown higher in Mustang

Key words

climate: a place's usual weather over many years.
glacier: a slow river of ice from mountain snow.
continuously: all the time.
Fahrenheit: a temperature scale (water freezes at 32 °F, boils at 212 °F).
century: a hundred years.
intensity: how strong something is.
hurricane: a violent storm, very strong winds.
heat wave: a spell of unusually hot weather.
atmosphere: the gases around the earth.
greenhouse: a glass building for growing plants.
satellite: a machine sent into space to gather information.
grateful: thankful.
sob: cry noisily.
comfort: kind words that make a sad person feel better.
aid: help.
arduous: very hard.
guidance: help and advice.

Pronunciation: phonemic letters

- a dictionary's **/ /** spelling: one letter a sound; **'** before the stressed syllable; **(r)** said only in American English or before a vowel
- **ə** *about* · **ɪ** *sit* · **æ** *cat* · **ʌ** *cup* · **əʊ** *go* · **ɪə** *near* · **tʃ** *chair*
- the words:
  - intensity **/ɪn'tensəti/**
  - global **/'gləʊbl/**
  - glacier **/'glæsiə(r)/**
  - temperature **/'temprətʃə(r)/**: three syllables, the *e* after *p* not said
  - atmosphere **/'ætməsfɪə(r)/**: *ph* = f
  - hurricane **/'hʌrɪkən/**

Grammar I: will and will have done

	Form	Use	Example
future simple	will + plain verb	will happen	*I **will finish** my homework soon.*
future perfect	will have + past participle	**finished before** a future time	*I **will have finished** it **by** 8 p.m.*

- the future perfect usually has **by** (*by 4 p.m., by next year, by 2028*): stand at that time and look back
- negative: *She **won't have finished** by then.*; question: ***Will** you **have finished** by Friday?*

- *shall* for *will* after *I, we* (*We shall buy a house*); *will* for all in everyday English
- participles: take → **taken**, go → **gone**, feed → **fed**
- answers: **will win** · **will have finished** (by 11 p.m.) · **will watch** · **will rain** · **Will the weather be** · **will have arrived** (by 10 a.m.) · **will have visited** (by July) · **won't help**
- two sentences: *I **will take** a bath in the evening. I **will have taken** a bath by 7 p.m.*
- twenty years on: *By then, I **will have finished** my studies, and I **will have visited** three countries.*

Listening: a weather forecast

- weather words: **sunny**, **snowy**, **rainy**, **windy**

Part	Weather	Temperature
north	very windy, cold; a **chance** of rain	around **10°**
east	rain all day; a **thunderstorm** may come in the afternoon	around **13°**
west and middle	dry, cloudy, **quite windy**	**10°**
south	cloudy, then **sunny**: the best	**15°**

- true / false: rain all day in the north (**F**: in the east) · thunderstorms in the east (**T**) · windy west (**T**) · best in the south (**T**)

Reading II: Gratefulness (a poem)

- by **Joseph T. Renaldi**; "I am **grateful** for…", rhyming pairs, like a prayer
- **eyes**: to see all she can do
- **ears**: to hear those who **sob** and need her
- **lips**: to speak words of **comfort** and peace
- **mind**: to know how to **aid** the needy
- **hands**: to do **arduous** and simple tasks for others
- **prayer**: strength and **guidance** every day
- **heart**, above all: it lets her **love**
- every gift is used **for others**: thankful for what it lets her give
- matching: mind → help the needy · eyes → see her activities · ears → hear sorrows · hands → difficult and easy tasks · lips → peace and comfort
- true / false: grateful (**T**) · only difficult tasks (**F**: hard and simple) · prayer rarely helps (**F**: every day) · the heart most important (**T**)

Speaking

- **I'll** = I will; **won't** = will not
- *A: **Will** the bus **have arrived** here by 5 p.m.? B: Of course. It **will come** here about half past four.*
- ask and answer: *What **will** you do on Saturday? — I **will play** football. — **Will** you **have done** your homework by then? — Yes, I **will**.*
- friends' plans: *Rajani **will join** a dance class next month. She **will have learned** three dances by Tihar.*

Writing

- **what may happen?** (four pictures): what the people **are doing** → what **may / might / will** happen → the results
  - a smoking car: dirty air, coughs, warming gases
  - rubbish on a beach: fish, turtles, seabirds die; plastic in fish
  - factory chimneys: poisonous air, acid rain, more carbon dioxide
  - a cut forest: soil washes away, landslides, animals lose homes
- **The Future of the Earth**: **will** (sure), **may, might** (possible), **will have** (done by a time)
  - topic sentence → population growth → deforestation → pollution → less fuel → a hopeful or warning end
  - *The world's population **will have grown**. Many animals **may** disappear. Nepal **might** sell clean electricity.*
- **project:** ask elders about changes: change · positive result · negative result (*a road came: hospital nearer; dust, young people leave*)

Grammar II: how sure are you?

Word	How sure	Example
will	sure	*She **will** be at work now.*
must	almost sure it **is**, from a clue	*You haven't eaten all day. You **must be** hungry.*
should	expected, if all is normal	*They **should** be there by now.*
may	possible	*You **may be** late for school.*
could	possible	*She **could** be lost.*
might	possible	*We **might meet** one day.*
can't	almost sure it **isn't**, from a clue	*He has just eaten. He **can't be** hungry.*

- past: + **have** + past participle: *You **must have worked** a lot.* (the many things made are the clue)
- **can** = sometimes true: *Prices **can** be high in Kathmandu.*
- from a situation: *She speaks Japanese. → She **must have lived** in Japan. She **might work** as a guide. · It's raining. → The roads **may be** slippery.*

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ By next Dashain, I will finish Grade 7.
✓ By next Dashain, I **will have finished** Grade 7.

✗ I will finished it soon.
✓ I **will finish** it soon.

✗ By 8 p.m. I will have finish it.
✓ By 8 p.m. I will have **finished** it.

✗ He has just eaten. He mustn't be hungry.
✓ He **can't be** hungry.

✗ 2 °F is 2 °C.
✓ 2 °F is about **1.1 °C**.