Unit 16 · Narrating Past Events

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **narrating past events**: the **past simple** (events one after another), the **past continuous** (what was going on), the **past perfect** (what had happened earlier)
- a story (*A Lesson from a Son*), a funny story (*A Party in a Restaurant*), two fables to order, stories from pictures

Getting started

- four pictures in order **3, 2, 4, 1**: walking to school → finds a ring on the road → shows her mother → hands it to the police
  - *Rebika **was walking** to school. Suddenly she **saw** something shining. She **picked** it up.*
- **song**: a teacher takes a student's **iPod**, then plays its music herself; now the student may bring it every day, because the teacher takes it every day
  - order: **c, d, a, b** (took → played → allowed → used it every day)
- emergency numbers: police **100**, fire brigade **101**

Reading I: A Lesson from a Son

- the people:
  - **Velan**: a **carpenter**; drinks, is cruel to his father, has a bad **reputation**
  - **Kuppan**: his old father, weak from too little, not **nutritious** food; his wife died long ago
  - **Mithu**: Velan's son, ten, **intelligent**, loves his grandfather
- the steps:
  1. Kuppan eats from a small **earthen** (clay) plate
  2. the plate slips, breaks, the food spills; Velan scolds him with **harsh** words; the old man is **wounded**; Mithu, afraid, says nothing
  3. next day Mithu makes a **wooden plate** with his father's tools: *for you, when you are old*: clay breaks, and then he might scold him
  4. Velan is shocked and ashamed; remembers how lovingly his father **reared** him, his **joyous** childhood
  5. from that day he **respects** his father and **gives up** drinking
- **the lesson**: children learn by **watching** what adults do; the way you treat your parents is the way your children will treat you
- order: **b, d, a, e, f, c** (carpenter's family → small clay plate → drunkard → plate drops, scolding → wooden plate → Velan changes)
- answers:
  - family: **three** (Velan, Kuppan, Mithu)
  - grandfather weak: **not enough food**, not nutritious
  - the plate: for his **father when old**, to show him his mistake
  - Velan changed: **yes**, respected his father, stopped drinking
- **our elders**: greet them, feed them first and on time, take them to the doctor, listen to their stories; never make them feel a burden
- Nepal's **Senior Citizens Act** (2006): families must care for those **60 and over**

Key words

carpenter: makes and repairs wooden things.
earthen: made of baked clay.
nutritious: healthy, with what the body needs.
reputation: what others think of someone.
drunkard: a person often drunk.
intelligent: clever, quick to learn.
attitude: how someone thinks and behaves.
harsh: cruel, unkind.
wounded: hurt (here, in the feelings).
severely: strictly, harshly.
rear: bring up a child.
joyous: full of happiness.
celebrate: make an occasion happy.
recognize: know who someone is.
hold on: wait.
about to: going to (very soon).
quantities: amounts.

Pronunciation: from sounds to words

- read the **/ /** letters, say the word: /ˈvɪlɪdʒ/ **village** · /ˈenə(r)dʒi/ **energy** · /ˈtriːtɪd/ **treated** · /ˈbrəʊkən/ **broken** · /ˈwʊdn/ **wooden** · /rɪˈspekt/ **respect**
- **'** before the stressed syllable: re'spect, not 'respect

Grammar I: the past continuous

	Form	Example
positive	I / he / she / it **was** + -ing; we / you / they **were** + -ing	*Indu **was reading**. They **were drawing**.*
negative	wasn't / weren't + -ing	*John **wasn't playing** cricket.*
question	**Was / Were** + subject + -ing?	***Were** the children **laughing**?*

- what was **going on** at a time in the past (*at this time yesterday, last night, a few minutes ago*)
- a **long** action going on → past continuous; a **short** one in the middle → past simple
  - *I **was cooking when** the phone **rang**. · The phone **rang while** I **was cooking**.*

    - **when** before the short action, **while** before the long one
- one (Pasang, a cat) → **was**; more (they, the students) → **were**
- answers: **was not playing** · **were painting** · **were not flying** · **was giving** · **was cooking** · **were not doing** · **was swimming**
- spelling: give → **giving**; swim → **swimming**
- speaking: *Rupal **was playing** chess last night. Sukrit **was riding** a bicycle when I **saw** him.*

Grammar II: the past simple and the past perfect

Tense	Form	Use	Example
past simple	went, arrived, fed	a finished action; events in order	*They **went** to the mall.*
past perfect	**had** + past participle	the **earlier** of two past actions	*When they **arrived**, the shop **had closed**.*

- with **before, after, already, by the time, never … before**
- only the **earlier** action takes *had*: *After the man **had come** home, he **fed** the cat.*
- Madhavi at the mall: they **had never been** there before; by the time they left, they **had seen** every shop
- answers: **had spent** (After Fred had spent…) · **left** · **arrived** · **sang** · **watched** · **called** · **was** · **moved** · **fed**

Listening: a day at school

- **Emily** tells her father about her day
- answers: made **an animal** (paper **kangaroos**) · crayons, paper and **glue** · **rode her bicycle** (in a tennis court) · played with her **cousin** · at **a house** (“Welcome home”; time for dinner)

Reading II: A Party in a Restaurant

- first person, past; a **funny** story, small disappointments building up
- the steps:
    1. a **birthday**: the writer invites friends to supper at a favorite restaurant in a **quiet part of town**; good food, friendly waiters; no need to book, especially on a Thursday
    2. every table taken: half an hour earlier a big party of **tourists** had come in, “like an **invasion**”
    3. a waiter who **recognized** him: *hold on*; people at a corner table **about to** leave
    4. after **a quarter of an hour** they sit; the table almost out of sight, waiters busy with the tourists’ huge **quantities** of food
    5. nearly **an hour** before the order is taken
    6. the waiter comes back, apologizing: **no meat or fish left**, only an **omelet**
- **the joke**: after all that waiting, a birthday dinner of eggs
- why: tables free → the corner people paid and left; no waiter for an hour → all busy with the tourists, their table hidden; he could advise on the food → he knew the place well; the apology → the tourists had eaten all the meat and fish

Writing

- a story’s verbs: **regular** (lived, treated, realized) · **irregular** (was, gave, fell, broke, saw, took, grew, became) · **past continuous** (was eating, was working) · **past perfect** (had died, had reared) · **phrasal** (gave up)
- **The Lion and the Mouse** (Aesop): **e, d, h, c, b, k, g, f, i, j, a**
    - *once* starts it; *this* (d) points back; *one day* (k) starts the second part
    - moral: **even the small can help the great**; kindness is repaid
- **the bundle of sticks**: clue → a past sentence each; title, details, moral
    - the sons can’t break the bundle; single sticks break easily
    - moral: **unity is strength**
- **Ram’s donkey**: **e, b, d, f, a, c**: Ram covers the donkey’s eyes; Anu says brown, they are black: he lied
- **Anjali and the fire**: *Yesterday, my friend Anjali **was going** to school. On the way she **saw** …*
    - fire on a roof → she calls **101** → a fire engine → firefighters on a ladder spray water → the house burned → neighbors build a new one
    - past continuous for the background (*while two of them **were spraying** water*), past simple for events
- **project:** a **storyboard**: six to eight scenes in boxes, one past sentence under each; tell it, vote

Extra bit: a day in pictures

- order: **wakes up → brushes teeth → eats breakfast → puts on socks and shoes → plays football → sleeps**
- *Rohan **woke up** when the sun **was rising**. He **brushed** his teeth, **ate** breakfast and **put on** his shoes. By the time the moon **came** out, he **had fallen** asleep.*
- check every verb is past: woke, brushed, ate, put on, played

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ I was see a fire on my way to school.
✓ I **saw** a fire on my way to school.

✗ They was watching TV.
✓ They **were** watching TV.

✗ Jill had phone her dad before she left.
✓ Jill had **phoned** her dad before she left.

✗ After he had came home, he fed the cat.
✓ After he **had come** home, he fed the cat.