Unit 18 · Confirming

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **confirming**: checking that something is true, with a **question tag** (*isn't it? can't you? did they?*) at the end of a statement
- a restaurant menu, a crowded festival market, two friends on cooking; tags for tricky sentences (*never, Let's, I am*); falling or rising tone

Getting started

- *The mountain is tall,* ***isn't it****? — Yes, it is.*
- *This is not a helicopter,* ***is it****? — No, it isn't. It's a plane.*
- *Elephants are not the tallest animals,* ***are they****? — No, they aren't. Giraffes are.*
- positive statement → negative tag; negative statement → positive tag
- answer with the tag's helper: *aren't they? — Yes, they* ***are****.*
- **song**: *Will you…?* to someone loved: watch over me, catch me when I fall, cheer me when I'm **blue** (sad)
  - **dawn** (first light) promises a new day; **soothe** = calm a pain

Reading I: A Hotel Menu

- **The Boat Restaurant**, **London**; prices in **pounds** (£); 100 **pence** = £1
- five sections in a meal's order:
  - **starters** (with bread and butter)
  - **main courses**
  - **drinks**
  - **snacks** (**lunchtime only**, with salad and chips)
  - **desserts** (sweet, after)
- lunch **12:30–2:30**, dinner **6–9 p.m.**; a **discount on Saturdays**
- read a menu for: what comes **with** a dish, **when** it is served, **extra** costs or discounts
- **chips** (British) = French fries; **soft drink** = cold, sweet, no alcohol; *cheese and biscuits* = cheese with crackers
- **true / false:**
  - five kinds of food (**F**: four, plus drinks)
  - chocolate cake cheapest dessert (**F**: ice cream £2.00)
  - soup with bread and butter (**T**)
  - one ice-cream flavor (**F**: chocolate, coffee, lemon)
  - dinner 6–9 (**T**)
- answers: most expensive **German sausage and chips** (£6.50) · cheapest **English tea**, **Irish cream coffee** (£0.90) · a cheese burger only at **lunchtime** · vegetable pasta **£4.85**
- chicken salad £3.30 + orange juice £1.25 = **£4.55**
- **your own menu**: name, place, phone; headings with prices lined up on the right; opening hours, something special

Key words

menu: a list of dishes with prices.
dawn: the first light of the morning.
soothe: calm, ease (a pain).
groceries: food and things for the house.
festive season: the time of a big festival.
pleasant: nice, enjoyable.
shoot up: (prices) rise suddenly.
struggle: try very hard.
stuff: things (informal).
prawns: small shellfish.
unbearable: too bad to put up with.
roam: walk about with no aim.
wearily: tiredly.
breathe a sigh of relief: breathe out because something hard is over.
emerge: come out, appear.
exhausted: very, very tired.

Grammar I and II: question tags

- a short question after a comma; three steps:
  1. **find the helper verb** (*am, is, are, was, were, have, has, had, can, will, should, must…*)
  2. **turn it round**: positive → negative tag, negative → positive tag
  3. **end with a pronoun** for the subject (*Monika → she, the phone → it*)
- no helper? the hidden one is **do / does / did**:
  - *Rajaram* ***works*** *at an office,* ***doesn't he****?*
  - *They* ***went*** *to Pokhara,* ***didn't they****?*

Statement	Tag	Why
She **never** works hard.	**does she?**	*never, nobody, nothing, hardly* are negative
Nobody came.	**did they?**	after *nobody, everybody*: *they*
I am late.	**aren't I?**	no *amn't I*
Let's go.	**shall we?**	a suggestion for us
Let me see it.	**will you?**	a request
Umar, **type** these letters.	**will you?**	an order (or *would you?*)
One should obey the rules.	**shouldn't one?**	*one* stays *one*
There are five birds.	**aren't there?**	*there* stays
They **have** a house.	**don't they?**	*have* = own takes *do*

- **falling** ↘ tag: you are sure, you expect agreement (*It's cold today, isn't it?*); **rising** ↗: you really are asking
- matching: Monika is drawing → **isn't she?** · I have a computer → **don't I?** · We have never seen a tiger → **have we?** · They don't like coffee → **do they?**
- tags: **do I?** · **isn't he?** · **haven't they?** · **did it?** · **wasn't it?** · **had she?** · **isn't it?** · **won't he?** · **does he?** · **isn't she?**
- Nira and Niraj: **aren't you?** · **haven't you?** · **isn't it?** · **haven't you?** · **isn't she?** · **doesn't she?** (*has* = main verb)

Listening: who cooks?

- **Hana** and **Daniel** on cooking; listen for **how often**: *always, often, occasionally, never, on the weekend*
- answers:
  - Hana cooks with **her roommate**
  - Daniel in the week **buys food from the shop**
  - Hana eats out **occasionally**
  - Daniel eats out **on the weekend**
  - busier: **Daniel**

Reading II: A Visit to a Market

- the writer to an audience ("Hi, everyone!"), in the past:
  1. last **Saturday**, with his mother, to the central market for **New Year** groceries; no parking
  2. **not pleasant**: the whole town there; prices **shot up**; a **struggle**
  3. vegetables, meat, fish, spices; **prawns** sold out; bags **heavier and heavier**, crowd **thicker and thicker**; noise and heat **unbearable**
  4. he waits in the car: **breathes a sigh of relief**: quiet, songs, fresh air
  5. half an hour later his mother **emerges**, **exhausted**; groceries in the **boot** (the car's trunk); never again in a festive season
- prices rise before a festival: everyone wants the same things at once (**supply and demand**)
- replaced words: **pleasant** · **stuff** · **unbearable** · **breathed a sigh of relief** · **emerged**
- answers: **last Saturday** · crowds, no parking, high prices · he **couldn't stand the crowd** · relieved: quiet, songs, fresh air · mother **exhausted**

Speaking: answering a tag

- **Yes** or **No** + the tag's helper, then the true fact:
  - *You are a seventh grader, aren't you?* — ***Yes, I am.***
  - *You can speak Japanese, can't you?* — ***No, I can't.*** *But I can speak Chinese.*
- a plain *No.* sounds rude; *No, it's not. Actually…* is friendly
- answer the **fact**, not the tag: *You can't swim, can you?* — ***Yes, I can.*** (if you can)
- clues: *Your father is a doctor,* ***isn't he****? — No, he isn't. He's an engineer.* · *You went swimming yesterday,* ***didn't you****? — Yes, I did.*

Writing II: an email about a market

- greeting and a friendly opening → who you went with → the market → what you saw and liked → what you bought → how you felt → closing line, your name
- one short paragraph each, in the past simple (*I went, we saw, I bought*)
- **project:** two places' prices for five items in a table; talk with tags: *Milk tea is cheaper at the teashop,* ***isn't it****?*

Extra bit: guess your classmates

- write a name, then check with a tag, rising (you aren't sure):
  - *Rohan, you aren't afraid of spiders,* ***are you****?*
  - *You went to bed late last night,* ***didn't you****?*
  - *You don't have a pet,* ***do you****?*
  - *You've been to the cinema this week,* ***haven't you****?*
- change the statement to *you*; one point for each right guess

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ They went to Lumbini last week, don't they?
✓ …, **didn't they**?

✗ She has never been late, hasn't she?
✓ …, **has she**?

✗ Let's take a photo, don't we?
✓ Let's take a photo, **shall we**?

✗ Close the door, don't you?
✓ Close the door, **will you**?

✗ Pemba can swim, doesn't he?
✓ Pemba can swim, **can't he**?

✗ "You've been to Ilam, haven't you?" "Yes, I haven't."
✓ **"No, I haven't."**