Unit 19 · Facts and Truths

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **facts and truths**: things true always or for a long time; **reporting** a fact (*She said that the Earth **is** round*) and the **zero conditional** (*If you heat ice, it **melts***)
- elephants, using a computer, a voice message, short messages, instructions

Getting started

- Raju's facts, reported: *Raju said that two plus two **is** four · the Sun **is** a star · there **are** countless stars · the Earth **moves** round the Sun*
  - a fact still true: the present is usual; *said that the Sun **was** a star* is good English too
- **song**: three riddles, four clues each:
  - hard shell, no legs, eats plants, tiny eggs → **snail**
  - big and brown, teeth and claws, hunts deer → **lion**
  - long and gray, fins, eats small fish → **shark**

Reading I: Elephants (a factual text)

- the biggest land **mammals**: a **trunk**, large floppy ears, thick wide legs
- the largest animal ever: the **blue whale** (up to about 30 m); on land: the **African elephant**

	African	Asian
where	south of the Sahara; rainforests of Central and West Africa	Nepal, India, Southeast Asia; **scrub**, rainforest
height, weight	about **4 m**, 6,350 kg	up to **2.7 m**, 4,990 kg
lives up to	**70** years	**60** years
trunk tip	two "fingers"	one
tusks	males and females	usually only males (females: tiny **tushes**)
ears	huge	smaller, rounder

- **three species**: African savanna, African forest, Asian
- **tusks**: huge teeth; to dig, lift, gather food, defend, protect the trunk; the **dominant** tusk is the more **worn down** (right- or left-tusked, like right- or left-handed)
- food: grass, fruit, leaves, bark, roots; **75–150 kg** a day, about **18 hours** of eating (¾ of the day)
- **matriarchal** herds: the oldest female leads, teaches the young, the herd cares for the weak and injured; too big, it splits
- **pregnancy** about **22 months**, one calf; adult at **8–13**; then males leave: alone or in **bachelor herds**
- **true / false:**
  - larger land animals (**F**)
  - Asian and African the two main kinds (**T**)
  - African heavier (**T**)
  - tusks no use (**F**)
  - two thirds of the time eating (**F**: three quarters)
  - herd ruled by a male (**F**: the oldest female)
- in Nepal: wild Asian elephants in the Tarai (Chitwan, Bardiya, Shuklaphanta, Parsa); a breeding center at **Khorsor**, Chitwan; **endangered**

Key words

mammal: gives birth to live young, feeds them milk.
species: one kind of animal or plant.
scrub: land with low trees and bushes.
tusk: a long pointed tooth outside the mouth.
dominant: stronger, more important.
worn down: made smaller by use.
gathering: collecting.
consume: eat or drink.
matriarchal: led by a female.
herd: a large group of animals together.
pregnancy: when a baby grows inside its mother.
bachelor: an unmarried man; a young male on his own.
device: a machine made for a job.
cursor: the arrow showing where you are on a screen.
erase: rub out, remove.
hand-held: small enough to hold.

- crossword: **herd**, **mammals**, **tusks**, **gathering**, **scrub** (across); **dominant**, **matriarchal**, **species**, **pregnancy** (down)

Pronunciation: dictionary symbols

- **/ˈmæməlz/** mammals · **/ˈdɒmɪnənt/** dominant · **/ˈspiːʃiːz/** species · **/ˌmeɪtriˈɑːkl/** matriarchal · **/hɜːd/** herd (like *heard*) · **/ˈpregnənsi/** pregnancy
- **ˈ** before the loud beat: MAM-uhlz, SPEE-sheez, may-tree-AR-kuhl

Grammar I and Speaking: reporting facts and truths

- report in your own sentence, no quotation marks: *"The Earth is round."* → *She said **that** the Earth **is** round.*
- most reported speech moves one step back (*"I am tired."* → *she **was** tired*: Grade 8)
- a **fact**, **truth** or **saying** still true: the present is usual; the past (*was round*) is good English too
- **said** + no person (*She said that…*); **told** + a person (*She told **us** that…*); *that* can be left out
- matching: *Knowledge is power* → **He said that knowledge is power** · *Man is mortal* (sure to die) · *Honesty is the best policy* (an old saying)
- reported: *Sabin told me that the Earth **rotates** on its axis.* · *The science teacher said that diamond **is** the hardest natural substance.*
- elephants: *The guide told us that their tusks **are** actually teeth.* · *Our teacher said that elephants **communicate** through vibrations.*

- facts change:
  - **India** has had more people than China since **April 2023** (UN)
  - water boils at 100 °C **at sea level**; about **95 °C** in Kathmandu
  - a rainbow is a smooth band; *seven colors* is Newton's naming
- diamond: a form of **carbon**, the **hardest natural substance**

Listening: a voice message

- **Ellen** leaves a message for **Nadia**: an invitation to a **housewarming** party
- answers: moving **next month** (28th June) · **a party** · **14th July** (the day after Nadia's birthday) · **7:30** · the house: **Highbridge** (spelled H-I-G-H-B-R-I-D-G-E) · bring **ice cream** (homemade strawberry)
- writing it down: dates with endings (**28th June**), times as figures (**7:30**), short forms (*I've got, we're, won't*)

Writing I: short messages

- three parts: a **greeting** with the name → **one or two sentences** → your **name**
- says one thing and stops: no *I hope you are well*, no *Yours sincerely*
- *Kushal, Tomorrow's cricket match has been **postponed** until the day after tomorrow. Same time, same place. Ritesh*
- a **housewarming** = a party in a new home; in Nepal, **griha pravesh**

Reading II: Use of a Personal Computer

- **Isabella** explains, step by step:
  1. press the **power button** (place differs by model; a circle with a line through a gap at the top)
  2. the **monitor** lights up, like a TV screen
  3. **function keys F1–F12** (F1 = **Help**); number keys on the right
  4. **Home** / **End**: start or end of the **line** (with Ctrl: of the document)
  5. **Backspace** erases to the **left** of the cursor, **Delete** to the **right**
  6. **Ctrl + V** pastes (Ctrl + C copies)
  7. the **mouse**: **hand-held**, moves the **cursor**, left and right buttons; a laptop has a **touchpad**
  8. switch off properly: **Start → Shut down**, then remove cables
- matching: power button → switch on · monitor → the screen · keyboard → type · Home → the beginning · Backspace → erase text · the pad on a laptop (a **touchpad**) → on a laptop
- **true / false:**
  - power button varies (**T**)
  - keyboard not an input device (**F**)
  - F1 shuts down (**F**: Help)
  - Delete erases (**T**)
  - more than two clicking points (**F**: two)
  - remove cables after (**T**)

Grammar II: the zero conditional

If + present simple	present simple
If you **heat** ice,	it **melts**.
If people **eat** too much,	they **put** on weight.

- what happens **every time**: *if* ≈ *when, whenever*
- *if*-part first → a comma; second → none: *You get burned if you touch a fire.*
- the second part can be an order: *If you want to pass, **study** hard.*
- zero (always) · first (*If it **rains** tomorrow, we **will** stay home*: one future event) · imagined (*If I **were** a bird, I **would** fly*)
- hydrogen and oxygen make water when they **react** (burn), not just mixed
- rearranged: *If we do regular exercises, our muscles become strong.* · *If we don't eat **a** balanced diet, we become weak.*
- answers: **becomes** · **mix** · **heat** · **expands** · **are** · **switches** · **get** · **wakes up** · **pour**
- the -s: *it becomes, the TV switches*; but *you mix, they get*

Writing II: instructions

- each step starts with a **verb** in its plain form, one to a line, in order: *Wet, Lather, Rub, Rinse, Dry*
- washing hands: rub with soap **20 seconds** (Happy Birthday twice); soap breaks up the oily layer, water carries germs away
- **Ignaz Semmelweis** (1847, Vienna): doctors washing hands cut mothers' deaths
- brushing teeth: **Soak** the brush → **Put** a pea of toothpaste → **Brush** gently in small circles, two minutes → **Spit** → **Rinse**
- **project:** pictures for a gadget's manual: four to six steps, a verb first, a safety warning

Extra bit: facts about your body

- choose five, in order: the body gives off faint **light**; the **left lung is smaller** (room for the heart); only humans seem to **blush**; the heart beats about **three billion** times in a life; newborns cry **without tears**
- some are measured, some estimates (the "trillion smells"): know where a fact comes from

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ She told that the Earth is round.
✓ She **said** that the Earth is round. (or *She told **us** that…*)

✗ Our teacher said us that the Sun rises in the east.
✓ Our teacher **told** us that…

✗ If you heat ice, it will melted.
✓ If you heat ice, it **melts**.

✗ If you mixes red and blue, you get purple.
✓ If you **mix** red and blue, you get purple.

✗ If you freeze water, it become solid.
✓ If you freeze water, it **becomes** solid.