Unit 8 · Talking about the Past

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 28

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 Although, however or because?

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: *although* and *however* join two ideas only when one is a surprise after the other; a reason takes *because*; *although* goes on the part that makes the other surprising; *however* starts a new sentence or follows a semicolon, with a comma after it.

a. Pairs **1 and 3 are contrasts, 2 and 4 are reasons.** Models:

1. ***Although the bridge over the stream was broken, we got across without getting our feet wet.*** (or *The bridge … was broken. However, we got across …*)
2. ***The path was muddy in the morning because it had rained all night*** (or *because it rained all night*).
3. ***We were very tired; however, we walked for two more hours.*** (or *We were very tired. However, …*, or *Although we were very tired, we walked…*)
4. ***We slept in a tent because the tea house was full.***
   (*It rained all night, so the path was muddy* and *The tea house was full, so we slept in a tent* also join a reason correctly.) The tempting mistake is to join every pair with *however*, or to write *…tired, however, we walked…* with commas only.

b. **Sentence 2.** *Although* goes with the part that makes the other part surprising: the broken bridge is what makes a dry crossing surprising. Sentence 1 puts *although* on the crossing, as if getting across dry made a broken bridge surprising.

c. Rain all night is the **reason** the path was muddy, not a surprise, so *however* (which shows a contrast) is the wrong word. ***The path was muddy because it had rained all night.*** A *however* sentence that makes sense needs a surprise: ***It rained all night; however, the path was dry in the morning.*** (or *The path was muddy. However, we reached the pass by noon.*)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 1 and 3 joined as contrasts with *although* or *however*.
- ✓ a. 2 and 4 joined with *because* (or *so*) as reasons.
- ✓ a. *However* after a full stop or semicolon, with a comma after it; a comma after the *although* part when it comes first.
- ✓ b. Sentence 2: *although* goes on the part that makes the other surprising.
- ✓ c. Rain is a reason, not a contrast: *because*.
- ✓ c. A *however* sentence with a real surprise.

2 The sound of -ed

ANSWER

Tests: the -ed sound is decided by the last **sound** of the plain verb (t or d → /ɪd/; a quiet sound such as p, k, s, f → /t/; any other sound → /d/), not by its last letter; only /ɪd/ adds a syllable.

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a.

Past form	Sound	Syllables
baked	/t/	1
smiled	/d/	1
danced	/t/	1
hoped	/t/	1
faded	/ɪd/	2
named	/d/	1
liked	/t/	1

b. Wrong for **baked, danced, hoped, liked** (they are /t/) and **faded** (/ɪd/). Every one of these verbs ends in the letter *e*, but the *e* is silent: the last **sound** is *k*, *s*, *p*, *k* or *d*. The rule should look at the **last sound:** *t* or *d* → /ɪd/ (an extra beat); a quiet sound (p, k, s, sh, ch, f) → /t/; any other sound → /d/. (*Smiled* and *named* end in the sounds *l* and *m*, so the rule only happens to be right for them.)

c. **/t/.** The letters *gh* in *laugh* say /f/, a quiet sound, so the *-ed* is a quiet /t/: one syllable, *laft*.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. The sounds: /t/ for baked, danced, hoped, liked; /d/ for smiled, named; /ɪd/ for faded.
- ✓ a. The syllables: 2 for *faded*, 1 for every other.
- ✓ b. Wrong for *baked, danced, hoped, liked* and *faded*.
- ✓ b. Look at the last sound of the plain verb, not its last letter.
- ✓ c. /t/, because *gh* says /f/, a quiet sound.

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3 Again and again, or a number of times?

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: *used to* for a habit or a state that went on in the past and has stopped; the past simple for one time, or for a count of times in all; *didn't use to* (no d after *did*); what *used to* tells the reader: it isn't true any more.

a.

1. He **used to walk** to the market in Besisahar every Saturday.
2. He **walked** all the way to Kathmandu **once**, when he was eighteen. (one time: not *used to*)
3. His family **didn't use to have** electricity in the village. (or *never used to have*)
4. He **visited** Lhasa **three times**. (a count of times in all: not *used to*)
5. He **used to visit** his sister in Gorkha twice a year.
   (The past simple, *walked every Saturday*, is also good English for a habit; *used to* is asked for wherever it can go.)

b. *Three times* is **how many times in all**, a total, so it takes the past simple. *Twice a year* is **how often**, again and again over many years, so it is a habit and takes *used to*. (The tempting answer: "both have a number, so neither".)

c. *Used to* tells the reader that he **doesn't live there any more**. But he **still does** (note 6). A true sentence: ***My grandfather has always lived in this house*** or ***My grandfather lived in this house then, and he still lives there.***

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 1 and 5: *used to walk*, *used to visit*.
- ✓ a. 3: *didn't use to have* (or *never used to have*).
- ✓ a. 2 and 4: the past simple, *walked*, *visited*.
- ✓ b. *Three times* is a total, so the past simple.
- ✓ b. *Twice a year* is how often, a habit, so *used to*.
- ✓ c. *Used to* says he no longer lives there, which is false; a true sentence.

4 Her life, in her words and in ours

ANSWER

Tests: an autobiography says *I*, a biography (by someone else) says *she*; every *I, my, me, our* changes; the past stays past, and what is true now stays in the present; questions in the past with *did* + the plain verb, and *was born* with no *did*.

a. A model: ***Smriti was born in a small village in Bajura in 2004. Her father taught at the village school, and her mother ran a tea shop. When she was ten, she found an old box of storybooks in the school store, and she read every one of them in a month. In 2022 she started a small library in her mother's shop with fifty books. Today her library (or the library) has nine hundred books, and children from three villages come to read in it.***

(Changed: *I* → *she*, *my* → *her*, *our* → *her* or *the*. The first sentence, *My name is Smriti*, is dropped: the biography names her at once.)

b.

1. ***Where was she born?*** (not *Where did she born?*: *born* goes with *was*)
2. ***Where did her father teach?*** (*did* + the plain verb *teach*, not *taught*)
3. ***When did she find the box of storybooks?*** (or *When did she read them?*, or *How old was she when she found them?*)
4. ***How many books did she start the library with?*** (or *How many books did the library have at first?*, or *How many books were in the library in 2022?*)

c. ***Today her library has nine hundred books, and children … come to read in it.*** It is about **now**: it is still true, so it stays in the present simple. (The tempting mistake is to put every verb in a biography into the past: *had nine hundred books*.)

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MARKING SCHEME A · 6

- ✓ a. *I, my, our* all changed to *she, her* (or *the*).
- ✓ a. The past verbs kept in the past, and the paragraph complete.
- ✓ b. 1: *Where was she born?*
- ✓ b. 2 and 3: right questions, with *did* + the plain verb where they use *did*.
- ✓ b. 4: a right *How many* question about the library's first books.
- ✓ c. The *Today* sentence, because it is still true now.

5 Mending a trip story

ANSWER HA · 5

Tests: the connective chosen by its logic (*however* needs a surprise; a reason takes *so* or *because*); *however* after a full stop or semicolon, with a comma after it; irregular past forms; *used to* only for a habit that has stopped, never for one time; telling a right sentence from a wrong one, not changing everything.

a. **3, 4 and 7.** In 3, the hunger makes keeping going a surprise, so *although* fits. In 4, visiting every Dashain was a habit that stopped: *used to* is right. In 7, *because* gives a real reason. (The tempting answers: changing 4 because it has *used to*, or 7 because it has *because*.)

b.

- (1) ***Last Saturday we left home at six…*** A wrong past form: *leave* is irregular, *left*.
- (2) ***Halfway there, the bus broke down, so we walked the last three kilometers in the sun*** (or *Because the bus broke down halfway, we walked …*). A wrong joining word: the breakdown is the **reason** they walked, not a surprise, so *however* makes no sense. The punctuation was right.
- (5) ***This time we reached her house at noon.*** *Used to* where it can't go: reaching the house this time happened **once**.
- (6) ***The door was locked; however, a neighbor was sitting outside*** (or *… was locked. However, …*). Wrong punctuation: *however* can't join two sentences with commas only. The word itself was right: a locked door, but someone there.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 3, 4 and 7.
- ✓ b. (1) *left*, an irregular past.
- ✓ b. (2) *so* or *because* for the reason, not *however*.
- ✓ b. (5) *reached*: one time, not *used to*.
- ✓ b. (6) a semicolon or full stop before *however*, a comma after it.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	Total
Marks	0	0	11	17	28

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