Unit 4 · Personal Experiences

STUDY NOTES

WHAT THE BLE ASKS

- **CDC's grid tests skills, not units:** Reading 25 · Writing 20 · Grammar 5
- **Reading 1–2 (seen texts, 5 marks each):** *A Visit to Mustang*; *A Diary Entry*
  - True / False
  - multiple choice
  - **ordering**
  - gaps
  - matching
  - short answers
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be a **memoir** or a **diary entry**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing, 5 marks: a **paragraph**
  - free writing, 10 marks: a **diary entry** or an **account of events**
- **Grammar (5 marks): tense**, half a mark a sentence: rewrite as told, or put the verb in its correct form

Reading I: A Visit to Mustang

- **Kind: memoir**: a true story from the writer's life, written later
  - **first person**
  - events in order
  - mostly **past simple**
  - what she saw and felt
- adapted from **Phoenix Yu**, from Hong Kong; visited **early 2020**
- **Why: curious** to see a place **untouched** by tourists; upper Mustang closed to outsiders until **1992**; foreign tourists still need a **special travel permit**

Place	What happened
Pokhara	met the tour group; cushions and blankets from the hotel staff, so she wouldn't get cold
jeep, January	guide **Reena**; 0 °C to –15 °C, so few tourists; on her own, not **lonely**: local people picked up and dropped off
Tatopani	after **seven hours**; hot spring, small **charming** pool; Reena on the **rustic** daily life
Kagbeni	along the **Kali Gandaki**: cliffs, **eroded** land, **canyons**
Muktinath Temple	about **3,710 m**; sacred to **Hindus** and **Buddhists**; **pilgrims**; **panoramic** views
teahouse	**endured** a freezing night; a beautiful sunrise
Marpha	two hours by jeep; **apple trees**, unique **architecture**

- **Muktinath's flags, five elements:** together **balance**
  - **blue** sky
  - **red** fire
  - **yellow** earth
  - **white** air
  - **green** water
- **Marpha:**
  - flat roofs
  - narrow **alleyways**
  - houses close
- **proximity** → people **mingle** → a **close-knit** community
- **End: refreshed**; a hot shower, a **luxury**, after three days without; **unforgettable**

Reading II: A Diary Entry

	Memoir	Diary entry
Written	long after	the same day
For	readers	mostly the writer
Opens	as a story	date, *Dear Diary*
Sounds	planned, polished	like talking to a friend

- **Writer: Neil**, a visitor from the West; Saturday, 5 March 2022, 10:00 p.m.
- **Before: unaware** of Nepal; **fortunately** the **long-awaited** day came in 2022
- **Bus out, 7 a.m.:** old, colorful, with his Nepali friend; road **bumpy** and **windy** (full of bends; WINE-dee); coffee at a **rest stop**; two boys played songs, he gave **fifty rupees** (they made him feel close to the Nepali community)
- **Village in Dhading:** up a **steep** hillside to the friend's **extended family**; rice and curry in a traditional kitchen; football with the youngest child; popcorn and daal; **stroked** a **kid** (baby goat); view he can't describe
- left at **3:00 p.m.**, **bidding** goodbye
- **Back: tiring**; few, full vehicles; a **vacant** seat, slept ten minutes; bread and eggs from a supermarket; would buy chocolate too next time; omelet with bread, bed early
- writes every night to remember; too tired, so will write in the day too
- **Sums up:** a wonderful day; the friendliness of Nepali people is **admirable**

Key words

untouched: not changed or spoiled.
alone / lonely: with nobody / sad because alone.
charming: very pleasant or attractive.
rustic: simple, country-style.
eroded: worn away by wind, water or ice.
canyon: a deep valley with steep sides.
pilgrim: someone who travels to a holy place.
panoramic: a wide view in all directions.
symbolize: stand for.
endure: bear something hard or painful.
architecture: the style of buildings.

alleyway: a narrow path between buildings.
proximity: being near.
mingle: mix with people and talk.
close-knit: caring about and helping each other.
luxury: something pleasant you don't often have.
fortunately: luckily.
steep: rising or falling quickly.
rural: of the countryside.
stroke: move your hand gently over.
bid goodbye: say goodbye.
vacant: empty.

Grammar: past simple or present perfect?

	Past simple	Present perfect
Idea	**finished time**	link **up to now**
Form	*-ed* or irregular past	*have / has* + past participle
Negative	*didn't visit*	*hasn't visited*
Question	*Did she visit?*	*Has she visited?*
Time words	*yesterday, last year, ago, in 2020, when I was ten*	*ever, never, already, just, yet, recently, since, for, so far*

Present perfect

- **experience**, no time given: *I have seen the Himalaya.*
- **result now:** *I have lost my pen.*
- **began, goes on:** *We have lived here for ten years.*
- **since** + the starting point (*since 2019*); **for** + the length (*for ten years*)
- *for* with a time that is over → past simple: *We lived there for ten years, and then we moved.*

Where the small words go

- *ever, never, already, just*: **before the participle**: *They have just arrived.*
- *yet*: **end** of questions and negatives: *He hasn't come yet.*
- **just** + present perfect; **just now** + past simple: *Phurba sang a song just now.*
- **been / gone:** *has been to Pokhara* = went and came back; *has gone* = there now
- **telling an experience:** start with present perfect, details in past simple: *I have recently visited the Central Zoo. We bought tickets…*
- short answer: same helper: *Did you…? No, I didn't. Have you…? No, I haven't.*

Irregular verbs

- be, was/were, been
- buy, bought, bought
- drink, drank, drunk
- eat, ate, eaten
- forget, forgot, forgotten
- go, went, gone
- know, knew, known
- leave, left, left
- lose, lost, lost
- rise, rose, risen
- run, ran, run
- see, saw, seen
- sing, sang, sung
- spend, spent, spent
- win, won, won
- write, wrote, written

Writing: a memorable event

- **P1:** what, when: *I will never forget… It happened last…*
- **P2:** what happened, step by step:
  - *First…*
  - *Suddenly…*
  - *Then…*
  - *In the end…*
- **P3:** the lesson: *That day I learned… Since then, I have…*
- **past simple**; present perfect to join it to now; one small detail only you could know

Writing: a diary entry

1. **day, date**, time if you like
2. *Dear Diary* if you like
3. **what you did**, in order, **past simple**
4. **how you felt**
5. **what you would have done differently:** *would have* + p.p. or *I wish I had* + p.p.: *I would have left earlier.*
6. **closing thought**, your name

Diphthongs

- one sound gliding into another, in one beat; go by sound, not letters
- **/aɪ/:**
  - *behind*
  - *night*
  - *financial*
  - *island*
  - *side*
- **/aʊ/:** *allowance, shower*
- **/ʊə/:**
  - *tour*
  - *manure*
  - *ensure*
  - *visual*
- silent: the *s* of *island*, the *gh* of *night*

Compound words

- **Open:** plural on the last word: *post offices*
  - *cell phone*
  - *post office*
  - *role model*
- **Closed:**
  - *airport*
  - *barefoot*
  - *bedroom*
  - *weekend*
- **Hyphenated:** many are adjectives
  - *check-in*
  - *long-term*
  - *runner-up*
- person: *-s* on the main word: **fathers-in-law**, **runners-up**
- no rule: check a dictionary

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ I have lost my keys yesterday.
✓ I **lost** my keys yesterday.

✗ She has gone to Pokhara last week.
✓ She **went** to Pokhara last week.

✗ Phurba has sung a song just now.
✓ Phurba **sang** a song just now.

✗ Have you ever gone to Muktinath?
✓ Have you ever **been** to Muktinath?

✗ Did you see it? No, I haven't.
✓ No, I **didn't**.

✗ I would leave earlier. (imagined past)
✓ I **would have left** earlier.

✗ father-in-laws
✓ **fathers-in-law**