# Unit 11 · Describing Places and People

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):** *Sir Isaac Newton*; *Khaptad National Park*
  - True / False
  - gaps
  - facts and figures
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be
  - a **biography**
  - a **leaflet**
  - a **brochure**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing, 5 marks: a **description**, a paragraph from notes, or **instructions**
  - free writing, 10 marks: a personal letter or a short essay
- **Grammar (5 marks): articles** and **relative clauses** in the blanks: *the girl (who, which, whose) won the prize; (a, an, the) honest man*

## Reading I: Sir Isaac Newton

- **Kind: biography**: a real life told by someone else; in order of time, past tense; ends with two **anecdotes**
- **P1:** born **1643**, Woolsthorpe, England; father, a **peasant**, died three months before; mother **remarried** → **maternal** grandmother; farming **interrupted** school; seemed **dull**; built small machines, windmills, even used mice
- **P2: 1661**, at 18, **Cambridge**: mathematics and science; **Professor of mathematics** at **26**
- **P3:** light → improved the **telescope**: **curved mirrors** do the job of lenses
- **P4:** an apple falls: why down, not up? → **theory of gravitation**: every body attracts every other; Moon stays near the Earth
- **P5: lost in thought**, **absent-minded**: left his guests to fetch food, found at his studies
- **P6:** guest on a **couch** ate alone; Newton, **puzzled**, **apologized**, saw the plates, thought he had already eaten
- born Christmas Day 1642 by the old calendar, 4 January 1643 by ours

## Reading II: Khaptad National Park

- **Kind: description of a place**: by **topic**, with headings; **present tense**
- set up **1984**; **Sudurpaschim Province**; **225 sq km**; **Bajura, Bajhang, Achham, Doti**; about **3,000 m**
- **pastures** + **coniferous** forest; **spectacular**, **pristine**, rich **biodiversity**
- **22 patans** (grasslands): **ample** summer grazing, flower June to August; **Khaptad Daha** for **aquatic** and **migratory** birds
- **Holy places:**
  - **Khaptad Baba Ashram**, named after the **renowned** Khaptad Swami (the answer to "named after whom?")
  - **Triveni**, a Shiva temple at a **confluence** of three rivers
  - **Sahashra Linga**, highest point, **3,276 m**
  - Ganesh temple
  - Nagdhunga
  - Kedardhunga
- **tranquility:** no
  - **tobacco**
  - **animal sacrifice**
  - **alcohol**
- **Trees:**
  - sal
  - pine
  - alder
- **sub-alpine:**
  - fir
  - birch
  - oak
  - rhododendron
- **Flowers:**
  - primulas
  - buttercups
  - wild berries
- **harbors** medicinal herbs
- **Birds: 266** species:
  - Dhanphe
  - bulbul
  - eagle
  - flycatcher
  - cuckoo

- **Mammals:** about **23** species:
  - barking deer
  - wild boar
  - ghoral
  - black bear
  - marten
  - monkeys
  - leopard
  - wolf
  - jackal
  - musk deer

| Regulation | Foreigners | SAARC | Nepalis |
|---|---|---|---|
| entry | Rs. 1,500 | Rs. 500 | Rs. 100 |
| filming (at DNPWC) | $1,500 | Rs. 50,000 | Rs. 10,000 |

- entry without a permit: **illegal**; drones: 25% more
- don't harm plants or animals
- rubbish out or in **designated** areas
- respect holy places
- camp only in designated areas

## Key words

**peasant**: a farmer with a small piece of land.

**maternal**: on your mother's side.

**dull**: slow to learn; also boring.

**wonder**: ask yourself.

**gravitation / gravity**: force pulling bodies together / the same, especially the Earth's pull.

**absent-minded**: forgetful through thinking of something else.

**puzzled**: confused.

**pasture**: grassland for animals.

**coniferous**: of trees with cones and needle-like leaves.

**pristine**: as nature made it.

**biodiversity**: a variety of animals and plants.

**ample**: more than enough.

**aquatic**: living in, on or near water.

**confluence**: where rivers meet.

**tranquility**: peace and quiet.

**flora and fauna**: plants and animals.

**designated**: chosen for one purpose.

## Grammar: relative clauses

| Word | For | Example |
|---|---|---|
| **who** | a person | *the guide who met us* |
| **whom** | a person, as object | *the guide whom we thanked* |
| **which** | thing, animal | *the bus which goes to Dhulikhel* |
| **that** | person or thing, never after a comma | *the bus that goes…* |
| **whose** | belonging to | *the boy whose kite got stuck* |
| **where** | a place | *the shop where I buy my pens* |
| **when** | a time | *the year when my sister was born* |

- **join:** find the two same words → take one out, choose the relative word → clause **straight after the noun**
- the relative word replaces the old word: **don't say it twice**
- **which one?** no commas, *that* allowed: *The boy who sits by the window is my cousin.*
- **extra fact:** commas, never *that*: *Mount Everest, which lies on Nepal's border, is the highest mountain.*
- after a **name:** almost always extra
- after *anything, everything, nothing, all*: **that**, or leave it out
- *which* for a whole sentence, with a comma: *Our team won the cup, which surprised everybody.*

## Grammar: articles

- **Do we both know which one? → *the*:**
  - mentioned before
  - only one (*the Sun*)
  - superlative
  - picked out (*the shop where I work*)
- **Not one countable thing? → no article:**
  - plurals in general
  - uncountables
  - **meals** (*have breakfast*)
  - **sports** (*play volleyball*)
  - most names
- **One countable thing? → first sound:** vowel sound **an**, consonant sound **a**

- **an** hour, **an** honest man, **an** MP, **an** X-ray
- **a** uniform, **a** university, **a** one-rupee coin
- next word decides: *a uniform, an old uniform*
- ***the*** with instruments: *play the madal*
- ***a*** in *a piece of, half an hour, twice a week*; meal with an adjective: *a quick lunch*
- second mention: *a fox … **the** fox*

## Describing

- **person:** *She has… She looks like…*
  - age
  - hair
  - clothes
  - face
  - height
  - character
- **place:** *It lies in… It is famous for…*
  - kind
  - what it has
  - where
  - why famous
- **object:** *It is made of… It is used for…*
  - size
  - shape
  - use
  - color
  - material
- *What does she look like?* appearance; *What is she like?* character

## Writing: a biography from notes

1. **open:** who, and why they matter
2. **order of time**, past tense
3. **join** notes:
   - *who*
   - *which*
   - *where*
   - *at the age of 17*
   - *in 1989*
   - *at last*
4. **stress** what matters
5. **close:** what they left behind

- **Pasang Lhamu Sherpa:** first Nepali woman on Everest; born Solukhumbu, 16 December 1961; top on **22 April 1993**, died climbing down; National Hero
- in an exam, write from the notes given

## Writing: a leaflet

- catches the eye, gets to the point:
  - bold title
  - short headings
  - picture
  - speaks to the reader
- **headings:**
  - introduction and location
  - major attractions
  - how to get there
  - provisions and requirements
  - best time to visit

## Writing: a set of rules

- *… is/are strictly prohibited: Plastic bags are strictly prohibited.*
- *… are not allowed to + verb*
- *… are supposed to + verb*
- *Don't + verb: Don't feed the monkeys.*
- *-ing … is not entertained*
- *Smoking is prohibited. Visitors are prohibited from smoking.*

## Informal forms

- spoken forms:
  - *gonna* going to
  - *wanna* want to
  - *gotta* got to
  - *gimme* give me
  - *lemme* let me
  - *kinda* kind of
  - *outta* out of
  - *coz* because
  - *doc* doctor
  - *gotcha* got you
  - *hadda* had to
  - *lotta* a lot of
  - *sorta* sort of
  - *uni* university
- recognize them; **never** in an exam or formal writing

## Tongue twisters

- *She sells seashells by the seashore.* (**s**, **sh**)
- *Fred fed Ted bread and Ted fed Fred bread.* (**f**: teeth on lip)

**COMMON MISTAKES**

✗ This is the pen which I bought it.
✓ …which I bought.

✗ the village where I was born there
✓ the village where I was born

✗ Mount Everest, that lies…
✓ Mount Everest, **which** lies…

✗ Everything which she said…
✓ Everything **that** she said…

✗ a hour, an uniform
✓ **an** hour, **a** uniform

✗ play madal / have a breakfast
✓ play **the** madal / have breakfast

✗ allowed to smoking
✓ allowed to **smoke**

✗ I'm gonna go. (exam)
✓ I am **going to** go.