Unit 15 · Giving Explanations

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):** *Conservation of Earth*; the school closure notice
  - True / False
  - reasons
  - word meanings
  - dates
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be a **notice** or a **short essay**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing, 5 marks: a notice is close to the grid's **announcement**
  - free writing, 10 marks: a **short essay** (the grid names it)
- **Grammar (5 marks): connectives** in the blanks: choose the right word

Reading I: Conservation of Earth

- **Kind: informative essay** that also persuades: the problem, then what we must do; *you, we*; **rhetorical questions**
- **P1, a home:** polar bears: Arctic, thick fat; lions: thinner coats, **scorching** African grasslands; **natural habitat** = where a creature **feels at home**; **ancestors** there for millions of years; **vegetation** differs; can't last long elsewhere
- **P2, saving a species: conservationists**, decades ago: bans on
  - some hunting
  - **poaching**
  - overfishing
- **P3, saving a home:** not enough; forests cut for **timber**; global warming melts the ice caps
- **P4, gone for good: extinct** never comes back; thousands in danger; undiscovered species in
  - **isolated** rainforests
  - Arctic
  - deep oceans
  - Antarctic
- **P5, the biosphere:** gives
  - food
  - fuel
  - building materials
  - medicine
- destroy it and we **die out**; are humans more important than animals? (no direct answer); look after our **precious** planet
- **P6, another home: James Webb Space Telescope** seeks **habitable** planets, oxygen and water vapor; hundreds of years; so look after the Earth today

Reading II: A notice about school closure

- **Kind: notice**: short official message to everybody; no *Dear...*; office name and logo show it is genuine
- **From:** Government of Nepal, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Singhadurbar, Kathmandu; **26th Poush 2078**
- **P1:** all schools close, **rapid** spread of **COVID-19**; **27th Poush to 15th Magh**
- **P2:** children **12 to 17** vaccinated at health posts; parents contact schools, take them on the **specified** dates
- **P3:** schools arrange **alternative** methods of learning; universities can hold planned exams, with health and safety rules

Notice English	Does
This is to notify...	set opening
has decided to close, will be closed	says what happens, no feelings
are requested to...	polite order to a group
because of..., since...	reason in a few words
from 27th Poush to 15th Magh	exact dates

- **vacation:** a holiday; **vaccination:** protects from a disease

Key words

feel at home: feel comfortable and safe.
scorching: very hot.
habitat: the natural home of a plant or animal.
ancestors: family who lived long ago.
vegetation: the plants of a place.
be used to: know so well it no longer seems strange.
decade: ten years.
species: one kind of living thing.
timber: wood for building.
extinct: no longer existing anywhere.
biosphere: all the parts of the Earth where life is found.
die out: disappear completely, one after another.
habitable: fit to live in or on.
infection: getting a disease from germs.
specified: named or fixed exactly.
arrangement: a plan made to do something.
alternative: what you can choose in place of another.

Grammar: connectives

Step 1: what do you mean?

- **reason:** *because, because of*
- **result:** *so, therefore*

- **purpose:**
  - *to*
  - *in order to*
  - *so that*
- **contrast:**
  - *but*
  - *in spite of*
  - *although*
  - *however*

Step 2: what must come next?

Connective	Then	Example
because	clause	*…because the ground was wet.*
because of	noun	*…because of the wet ground.*
to, in order to	base verb	*…in order to borrow a book.*
so that	clause, often *can / could*	*…so that she could borrow a book.*
although	clause	*Although it was raining, we played.*
in spite of	noun or -ing	*In spite of the rain, we played.*
but	clause, after a comma	*It was raining, but we played.*
therefore, however	new sentence, comma after	*However, we played.*

Joining two sentences

1. **find the job:**
   - reason
   - result
   - purpose
   - surprise
2. **change what must change:** *It was raining → the rain*; *She was tired → being tired*
3. **punctuation:** a part with *although, because, in spite of*: comma when first, none when second

- *The bridge was washed away. The bus reached Jomsom. → Although the bridge was washed away, the bus reached Jomsom.*
- *however*: full stop or semicolon before, comma after

More transition words

- **adding:**
  - *also*
  - *furthermore*
  - *in addition*
  - *moreover*
  - *besides*
- **result:**
  - *thus*
  - *consequently*
  - *as a result of*
- **comparing:**
  - *similarly*
  - *in the same way*
  - *likewise*
- **contrasting:**
  - *whereas*
  - *on the other hand*
  - *unlike*
  - *in contrast*
- **emphasizing:**
  - *above all*
  - *in particular*
  - *especially*
- **illustrating:**
  - *for example*
  - *such as*
  - *for instance*
- **qualifying:**
  - *unless*
  - *as long as*
  - *despite*
  - *except*
  - *apart from*
- **sequencing:**
  - *first*
  - *then*
  - *meanwhile*
  - *next*
  - *finally*

Asking why

- why something **is so** → a **reason**: *because* + subject + verb
- why someone **does** something → a **purpose**: *to / in order to* + verb
- *"Why did you go to the bank?" "To withdraw some money."*

Writing: an opinion essay

- hear both sides, then say what you think, and why; about 100 to 150 words
- **1. Introduction:** *Some people think … while others believe …*
- **2. One side:** two or three points: *First, … because …; also, …*
- **3. Other side:** *However, …; on the other hand, …*
- **4. Your opinion:** *In my opinion, …; although …*
- one idea a paragraph; *I* only for your opinion

Writing: a notice

- **school's name → date → heading → day of closure → reason → when school opens again → name and post** of the signer

Consonant sounds

- 21 letters, **24 sounds**; sounds in slashes: *danger* /dʒ/
- pairs: voice off / on: /s/, /z/
- sounds:
  - **/ʃ/** bush
  - **/θ/** thousands
  - **/ʒ/** treasure
  - **/ð/** another
- **/ŋ/** warming
- **/tʃ/** creature
- **/v/**: teeth touch lip; **/w/**: they don't: *vet, wet; vine, wine*

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Although it was raining, but we played.
✓ Although it was raining, we played.

✗ Because he was ill, so he stayed at home.
✓ Because he was ill, he stayed at home.

✗ because of the ground was wet
✓ because **the ground was wet**

✗ In spite of it was raining, …
✓ In spite of **the rain**, …

✗ It was late, however, we went on.
✓ It was late. **However,** we went on.

✗ The biosphere is only the air.
✓ **every place** on the Earth where life is found

✗ vacation for a vaccine
✓ **vaccination**