Unit 16 · Narrating a Sequence of Events

STUDY NOTES

WHAT THE BLE ASKS

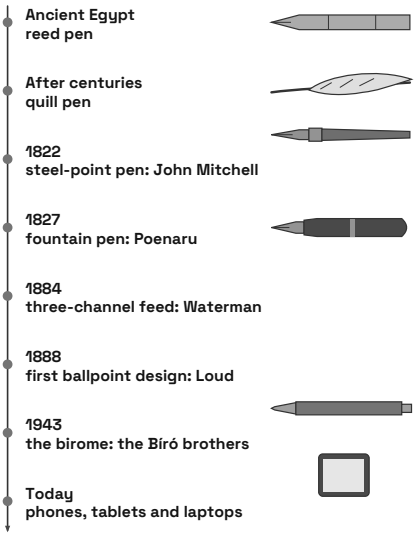
- **CDC's grid tests skills, not units:** Reading 25 · Writing 20 · Grammar 5
- **Reading 1–2 (seen texts, 5 marks each):** *Why I Became a Vegan*; *The History of Pens*
  - meanings
  - tables
  - True / False
  - short answers
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be a **story** or a **memoir**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing, 5 marks: a **story**, like Sanam's
  - free writing, 10 marks: an **account of events**, like the history paragraphs
- **Grammar (5 marks): tense** is in the sentences to change: *Change the sentence into the past perfect.*

Reading I: Why I Became a Vegan

- **Kind: personal account** by **Jessica Sharp**, from the website *GenTwenty*: a true story from her own life, told to make a point; *I*, everyday language
- **Before:** never thought about weight; **cheered** at school; after college put on weight: restaurants, **stress**; not happy
- **The Whole30:** a 30-day diet; afterwards she could tell when her body didn't feel good
- **The podcast:** *Almost 30*: a **holistic** lifestyle; natural **deodorant**, a **transition**; changes are branches of one tree, the last is **vegan**
- **Family:** aunt and uncle, then her father, then her
- **Her reason: eliminate** foods her body doesn't like, eat what makes her feel good
- **For her:** no
  - **dairy**
  - eggs
  - meat
- but restaurant butter and honey: needn't be strict; **what works for that person**
- **Hard?** surprisingly easy
- **What changed:**
  - rarely a stomach ache or headache
  - more energy
  - less **acid reflux**
- **Protein:** beans and chickpeas; an **abundance** of vegetables to **incorporate**
- **Time signposts:**
  - *growing up*
  - *in college*
  - *post-college*
  - *one day*
  - *following those 30 days*
  - *during this same time*
  - *before those 30 days*
  - *now*
- **vegetarian:** no meat, may have milk; **vegan:** nothing from an animal
- **One person's story isn't proof:** it doesn't show everyone should stop dairy; vegans need care with **vitamin B12**

Reading II: The History of Pens

- **Kind:** short **history**, every paragraph a new pen; look for the **when** and each pen's **problem**



CDC's task D, a timeline: reed → quill → steel-point → fountain → ballpoint → screens.

Pen	Who, when (the text)	Good	Trouble
Reed	Egyptians, for **papyrus**	hollow, holds ink	filled, squeezed
Quill	Seville, Spain; nearly 12 centuries	smoother, faster	sharpened often
Steel-point	John Mitchell, Birmingham	cheap, sturdy, by machine	dipped again and again
Fountain	Poenaru **1827**; Waterman **1884**	carries its own ink	ink dried slowly, could smudge
Ballpoint	Loud **1888**; Bíró **1943**	quick-drying, no smudges	now replaced by screens

- **Quill:** feathers of swans, turkeys, geese; dried to **discard** oils; ink in the **shaft**, a **reservoir**; before it capital letters, after it small letters too
- **Poenaru:** Romanian; ink **barrel**; **Waterman:** American; three-channel feed; truly **transportable**; 1900s **cartridges**
- **Loud:** American; earliest ballpoint design; ink wouldn't flow well
- **László Bíró:** Hungarian journalist in Argentina; hated **smudging**; quick-drying ink, a small metal ball; brother **György**, a chemist
- **Biromes:** first commercial success; **Marcel Bich** bought the patent; over 100 billion sold
- **Turning point:** writes
  - on cardboard and wood
  - under water
  - high in the air
- **Today:** with the **advent** of phones, tablets, laptops, fewer pens; still one of the most important inventions
- **What makes it a story:** each problem leads to the next pen

Key words

consistently: always in the same way.
thrilled: very pleased and excited.
holistic: caring for the whole, not just one part.
transition: a change from one thing to another.
eliminating: removing; getting rid of.
dairy: milk and the foods made from it.
abundance: a very large amount.
incorporate: include as a part.
papyrus: paper-like material from a water plant.
discard: get rid of.
reservoir: a place where a liquid is stored.
durable: able to last a long time.
sturdier: stronger; less easily damaged.
patented: got the legal right to an invention.
smudging: making a dirty mark by rubbing.
evolution: slow, steady development.
convenient: easy and useful.
advent: the arrival of something important.

Grammar: the past tenses in a story

Tense	Job	Example
past simple	moves the story **forward**	*Bibisha shut the gate and ran.*
past continuous	**background**: what was going on	*Rain was falling.*
past perfect	steps **back** to what came before	*She had left her books at home.*

- most of a story: past simple
- start in the middle → earlier things in the **past perfect**
- past perfect = before the moment you are telling; once clear, back to past simple

Order words

- **next step:**
  - *first*
  - *next*
  - *later*
  - *then*
  - *after that*
  - *finally*
- **straight after:** *when, as soon as*
- **something long:** *while*: *While I was sweeping, the phone rang.*
- **which came first:** *before, after, by the time*: *By the time we got there, the shop had closed.*
- **cutting in:** *suddenly, all of a sudden*

After *had*: third form

- *drunk*
- *rung*
- *written*
- *begun*
- *sung*
- *gone*

Telling a story from pictures

- don't describe (*In this picture…*); tell what happened
- who and where → steps with time words → how it ended

Writing: putting a story in order

- **time words:** *once upon a time* starts; *later* needs something earlier; *finally* near the end
- **pointing words:** *he, it, this* need something to point back to
- **growing steps:** *tiny* before *slightly bigger*
- **plan:** who and where? → what did he do? → what next? → how did it end?
- **the wise man's plants:** tiny plant → bigger one → guava tree, too strong; bad habits are like them (order **b, d, i, g, c, h, f, a, e**)

Writing: a historical event

- must be **true**: find facts in a book or a reliable website
- **choose one event:**
  - when
  - where
  - who
  - what happened
  - what came of it
- **P1:** what it was, in order, with dates and time words
- **P2:** what came of it, why it matters
- **tenses:** past simple steps, past continuous background, past perfect before; your own words

Silent letters

- written, not said:
  - *de**b**t*
  - *musc**l**e*
  - *com**b***
  - *desi**g**n*
  - ***p**sychology*
  - ***k**nee*
  - ***h**eir*
  - *ca**l**f*
  - *autum**n***
  - *le**d**ger*
  - *s**c**ene*
  - *forei**g**n*
- **why:** the sound was lost (*knee*); scholars added it (*debt*, like Latin *debitum*)
- **trick:** it may wake up in the family: *muscle, muscular*

Blending

- parts of two words joined, the meaning of both; at least one loses a piece (a **compound** keeps both whole: *blackboard*)
  - *breakfast* + *lunch* = *brunch*
  - *motor* + *hotels* = *motels*
  - *emotion* + *icon* = *emoticon*
  - *friend* + *enemy* = *frenemy*
  - *video* + *blog* = *vlog*
  - *web* + *seminar* = *webinar*
  - *camera* + *recorder* = *camcorder*

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ He had already drank it.
✓ He had already **drunk** it.

✗ In this picture there is a boy.
✓ tell what **happened**

✗ The shop closed by the time we got there.
✓ The shop **had closed** …

✗ While I swept, the phone was ringing.
✓ While I **was sweeping**, the phone **rang**.

✗ A vegan may eat milk.
✓ that is a **vegetarian**; a vegan eats nothing from an animal

✗ Bíró made the first ballpoint design.
✓ **Loud** did, in 1888; Bíró's was the first to sell well