Unit 17 · Making and Accepting Offers

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):** *Naresh and the Stranger*; *From a Railway Carriage*
  - who said it
  - meanings
  - sentences to complete (CDC's model opens with a poem)
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be a **story** or a **letter or email**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing (5 marks)
  - free writing, 10 marks: a **personal or official letter**, such as a reply to an invitation
- **Grammar (5 marks): voice** is in the sentences to change: *People grow apples in Dolpa. (Change into passive voice.)*

Reading I: Naresh and the Stranger

- **Kind: moral tale**: little detail; what each person **does**, and what comes of it
- **In one line:** a poor farmer shares what little he has with a sick stranger, asks for nothing, is rewarded with a bag of money
- **Naresh:** simple, honest; feeds six:
  - wife
  - father
  - three children
  - mother
- income **insufficient** (his wife looks after the family, so can't go out to work); no **nutritious** food; tells his worries to his oxen
- **At the river: fetching** water; a tired, ill-looking **stranger**; Naresh offers help before he speaks
- **At home:** wife cries, not enough food; Naresh: God will help them if they help others
- **Third day:** stranger better; at the river, lift the big stone, dig **beneath**: a pot, a bag of money
- **The end:** Naresh didn't help for money; takes it only when asked again; still offers food for the road

Who offers	What	Answer
Naresh	help	accepted: water, a place to rest
Naresh	to come home and rest	accepted, thanks
stranger	to come to the river	Naresh goes
stranger	the money	**declined**, then accepted
Naresh	food for the journey	thanked, **declined**

Reading II: From a Railway Carriage

- **Poet: Robert Louis Stevenson** (1850–1894), Edinburgh, Scotland; ill as a child; *Treasure Island*; from *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885)
- **Form: four stanzas** of four lines, in **couplets**
- **In one line:** from a train window, each sight is only a glimpse, gone forever
- **1: faster than fairies and witches**; horses and cattle charge like troops
  - bridges
  - hedges
  - houses
  - ditches
- **2:** past as thick as **driving rain**; **painted stations** whistle by in the **wink of an eye**
- **3:** a child **clambers and scrambles**, gathering **brambles**; a **tramp gazes**; daisies strung on the green
- **4:** a cart **lumping** along; a mill, a river; each a **glimpse**, **gone forever**
- **Devices:**
  - **simile:** *like troops in a battle; as thick as driving rain*
  - **alliteration:** *faster, fairies; hedges, houses*
  - **rhyme:** *aa bb cc dd*
  - **lists:** hardly any verbs, as sights pile up
  - **rhythm: four strong beats** a line, echoing the train

Key words

insufficient: not enough.
nutritious: good for the body.
fetch: go and bring back.
beneath: under.
independent: able to manage without help.
hedge: a row of bushes planted as a fence.
ditch: a narrow channel at the side of a field or road.
meadow: a field of grass.
clamber: climb with difficulty, using hands and feet.
scramble: climb or move quickly and awkwardly.
bramble: a wild, prickly bush that gives blackberries.
tramp: a homeless person who walks from place to place.
lump (along): move heavily and clumsily.
glimpse: a very short look.

Grammar: active and passive

- **active:** subject = doer: *The stranger opened the pot.*

- **passive:** subject = receiver: *The pot was opened by the stranger.*

Four steps

1. the **object** becomes the subject
2. ***be*** in the same tense, agreeing with the new subject
3. **past participle** of the main verb
4. doer behind ***by***, or left out

Tense	Passive	Example
present simple	am/is/are + p.p.	*The piano is played by her.*
present continuous	am/is/are **being** + p.p.	*The radio is being repaired.*
present perfect	has/have **been** + p.p.	*My pen has been stolen.*
past simple	was/were + p.p.	*That table was made by her.*
past continuous	was/were **being** + p.p.	*The wall was being painted.*
past perfect	had **been** + p.p.	*The oranges had been picked up.*
future simple	will/shall be + p.p.	*The guitar will be bought.*
future perfect	will/shall have **been** + p.p.	*The work will have been finished.*
modal	modal + be + p.p.	*This task must be completed.*

- only ***be*** changes tense; the p.p. stays the same
- **pronouns:** *I, we, he, she, they* ↔ after *by*: *me, us, him, her, them*: *She plays* → *is played by her*
- **p.p. to learn:**
  - *taken*
  - *written*
  - *made*
  - *given*
  - *built*
  - *seen*
  - *stolen*
  - *bought*

When to use it

- doer unknown: *My pen has been stolen.*
- doer obvious or unimportant: *Apples are grown in Dolpa.*
- receiver is the topic: *Bread is made from flour.*
- *someone, people, you* → dropped: *Rice is grown here.*
- *by* only when the doer is news: *Muna Madan was written by Laxmi Prasad Devkota.*
- **no object, no passive:**
  - *happen*
  - *come*
  - *sleep*
  - *arrive*
  - *die*

Offering

- **a thing:**
  - *Would you like…?*
  - *Can I get you…?*
  - *How about…?*
- **an action:**
  - *Shall I…?*
  - *Would you like me to…?*
  - *Can I…?*
- **sure they'll want it:** *Let me… I'll… if you like.*
- **any help:** *Can I help you? Is there anything I can do?*
- **accept:** *Yes, please. That's very kind of you.*
- **decline** (thank, say no gently, short reason): *No, thanks. That's kind of you, but I can manage.*

Writing: replying to an offer

- **formal**, to a business
- **Subject** *Re: About the New Offer* → **Greeting** *Dear Sukla Devkota,* → **Thanks** *Thank you for your email about…* → **Answer** → **Next step or reason** → **Close and name** *With best regards,*
- **accepting:** *I would like to take up your offer.* + what you want, any question
- **declining:** *I'm afraid I won't be able to accept it at this time.* + short reason, hope for later
- unsure of *Mr.* or *Ms.*: use the whole name

Writing: replying to an invitation

- informal, to a friend; an invitation is an offer too
- **Address and date** → **Greeting** *Dear Rabina,* → **Thanks and good wishes** → **Your answer**, clearly → **Details** (date, what you'll bring) → **Warm close** and name

Contractions

- an **apostrophe** stands where letters dropped: *I'm, couldn't*
- *mustn't*: first *t* silent: MUSS-nt; *aren't* one beat in most British speech
- **'s**, like -s: new beat after a hushing sound: *Naresh's*; /z/ after voiced: *Neil's*
- **three jobs of 's:**
  - *is*
  - *has* (past participle next)
  - belonging (noun next)
- write *is, has* in full in formal writing

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ The accident was happened last night.
✓ The accident **happened** last night.

✗ The pot was open by the stranger.
✓ The pot was **opened** …

✗ The radio is repaired now by my father.
✓ The radio **is being repaired** …

✗ This task must completed.
✓ This task must **be** completed.

✗ The stranger thanked him. → Him was thanked.
✓ **He** was thanked by the stranger.

✗ Rice is grown here by people.
✓ Rice is grown here.

✗ I carry that bag. (an offer)
✓ **I'll** carry that bag.

✗ must-unt
✓ MUSS-nt