Unit 8 · Talking about the Past

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Full marks 48

Write your answers on separate paper.

1 Idioms in context [4]

Complete each sentence with one of these idioms, in the right form: *a piece of cake, add fuel to the fire, call it a day, burn the midnight oil, cost an arm and a leg, out of the blue, once in a blue moon, when pigs fly*.

i. My uncle lives in Humla, so we see him only ..... .
ii. We have dug for six hours. Let's ..... .
iii. "He says he will give up sweets." "Yes, ..."
iv. Answering back to the angry shopkeeper only ..... .
v. The new bicycle ..... , so I'm still using the old one.
vi. Before the final exam, Ishwori ..... every night for a week.
vii. After all that practice, the spelling test was ..... .
viii. ..... , a boy I had not seen for ten years phoned me from Doha.

2 Reading: an unseen letter [8]

Before the Road Came (a made-up letter)

Dear Rachana,
You asked me for your school project what life was like when I was your age. I'm afraid that you will not believe me.
We used to walk for two days to reach the nearest bazaar. There was no road, and there was no electricity. In the evening, my mother used to light a small lamp, and we had to finish our reading before the oil ran out. I never had a new book. I used to borrow one from my cousin, who had borrowed it from her cousin, so by the time it reached me, somebody had already written all the answers in it.
One morning in the winter of my twelfth year, I was carrying grass down the hill when I heard a noise like a hundred angry bees. Everyone ran to the ridge. A yellow machine was cutting into the mountain. We had never seen anything so big. The old men shook their heads, but we children were dancing.
The road brought a great deal: medicine, a bus, your father's college. It also took a great deal. The young people went down it, and most of them didn't come back.
So tell your teacher that we used to have very little. And tell her that I didn't use to feel poor.
With love,
Your Hajurama

a. How long did it take to walk to the bazaar, and why? [1]

b. What was the "noise like a hundred angry bees"? [1]

a. the people running to the ridge
b. a machine making the road
c. the old men's complaints
d. real bees on the hill

c. Copy and complete the table with **two** things the road brought and **one** thing it took away, then say which of them the writer seems to feel most. [2]

Brought	Took away

d. Why were the old men shaking their heads while the children danced? [1]

e. Find a phrase in paragraph 4 that means "very much". [1]

f. Explain the last two sentences. What does the grandmother want Rachana to understand? [2]

3 One word, three stories [3]

Each sentence has the same two people, but a different story. Say what happened first, or whether the two things happened at the same time.

i. When Sagar arrived, we ate.
ii. When Sagar arrived, we were eating.
iii. When Sagar arrived, we had eaten.

4 The right past tense [5]

Write the correct form of each verb in brackets: past simple, past continuous or past perfect.

By the time the rain stopped, the river ..... (rise) to the bridge. At six that morning, Kamal ..... (feed) the buffalo when he heard a shout. He ran down the path. While he ..... (run), he saw that the water ..... (already, carry) away the footbridge. Two boys ..... (stand) on the far bank, and they ..... (wave) at him. Nobody ..... (tell) them about the danger. He ..... (not, stop). He ..... (take) the rope that his father ..... (leave) in the shed.

5 Can it be used to? [4]

Change the verb to *used to* if you can. If you can't, explain why.

i. Grandfather smoked a pipe when he was young, but he gave it up.
ii. Selina visited Pokhara three times last year.
iii. My brother plays football every Saturday these days.
iv. There was a pond behind the school, but it is a car park now.

6 Use or used? [3]

Make the negative or the question the brackets ask for.

i. Sonam used to walk to school. (question with *Where*)
ii. They used to eat dhindo. (negative)
iii. There used to be a bus at noon. (yes/no question)

7 Fit the phrases [5]

Five phrases have been taken out of this story. Copy the letters of the gaps, and write the phrase that fits each one. One phrase isn't needed. Think about capital letters and the words before and after each gap.

who had lost his keys · Since it was raining · that sold tea · When he reached the gate · in the old house · who had just come home

An old man (a) ..... went back to look for them. (b) ..... , he took his umbrella. (c) ..... , he saw a light on the first floor. Someone was moving about (d) ..... . It was his son, (e) ..... from Doha, and he was holding up the keys.

8 Find and fix the errors [6]

This paragraph has **six** errors. Find each one and write the correction.

I use to live in Dang when I was small. One night, while we was sleeping, a noise woke us. My father went outside, but the thief already ran away. Did you ever saw such a thing? "We were lucky," my mother said. Now I use to lock the door every night. In those days, nobody were afraid.

9 Writing: a narrative essay [7]

Write a **narrative essay** (about 120 words) about a time when something you had planned went wrong. Use the beginning, middle and end from your textbook, and all three past tenses, with at least one *used to*.

10 Think [3]

"Historical Inventions" in your textbook is about changes that reached the whole world. "Having Fun" is about a few coins in a pair of shoes. Both are about the *effect* of what people do. Which do you think matters more to a person's life, a great invention or a small kind act? Give your view with a reason.