

Unit 7 Stories from history

7a Empire building

Reading loyal subjects

1 Read about Ghengis Khan.

Ghengis Khan is a great example of an effective leader of an empire because he used a variety of strategies to maintain his empire. He had a personal guard of 10,000 troops whom he kept loyal by allowing them to amass personal riches as they swept east into China attacking the Xi Xia kingdom and then the Jin dynasty of northern China. In addition to rewarding them, he also kept them afraid, by keeping hostages of family members of the more powerful soldiers within this group in case they had any notions of revolt. Ghengis Khan's main weapon for keeping his enemies in check was fear. He was merciless to those who opposed him. However, this was not always the case. At Kara-Khitai in western Mongolia, a renegade prince named Kuchlug had seized power. He had made himself unpopular with the local people by allowing his soldiers to pillage their land and by restricting their rights. Because of their dislike of him, when Kuchlug came under attack from Ghengis Khan's forces, he found that he had little support and was forced to flee. Ghengis then took the friendly people of Kara-Khitai under his wing.

Language focus linking words

2 Rewrite these sentences or pairs of sentences using the given words.

- 1 After you've conquered a territory, how do you make the inhabitants of that land loyal to you?

_____ (following)

- 2 They see that they have a better standard of living following the change of regime.

_____ (when)

- 3 In addition to rewarding them, he also kept them afraid.

_____ (and)

- 4 He was merciless to those who opposed him. However, this was not always the case.

_____ (but)

3 Rewrite these pairs of sentences as one sentence using the appropriate linking words.

- 1 The Mongols seemed like a united force. They were made up of a group of warring tribes.

_____ contrast

- 2 Ghengis Khan died in 1227. His empire continued to grow.

_____ sequence

- 3 The Mongols had a nomadic lifestyle. They depended on their horses.

_____ reason

- 4 Ghengis Khan relied on great force. He also used spies to discover an enemy's weakness.

_____ extra point

Vocabulary stories from history

4 Complete the paragraphs with these words.

feats	inside	outlaw
pioneers	sacrifices	sides

There are two ¹ _____ to every story. Some say that Robin Hood was an ² _____, no more than a common thief; others say he made great ³ _____ to help the poor.

The astronauts of the late 1950s and early 1960s were the great ⁴ _____ of space travel. The ⁵ _____ story of their amazing ⁶ _____ of bravery is told in Tom Wolfe's book *The Right Stuff*.

7b Sleep well?

Reading the history of sleep

- 1 Read the article about some historical research into sleep patterns.

People worry that they will be unable to function properly if they do not get a night of uninterrupted sleep. But a growing body of historical evidence indicates that, compared to a single period of sleep, broken sleep may in fact be a more natural pattern and indeed better for you.

Historian Roger Ekirch's research shows that sleeping in two separate chunks is a perfectly healthy option.

Language focus subordinate clauses

- 2 Rewrite these pairs of sentences as one sentence using the given subordinating conjunctions.

1 Ekirch is probably right. We shouldn't think there is something wrong with us if we wake in the night. (assuming that)

2 You should never sleep on a mattress that is too hard. It can give you back pain. (in case)

3 It doesn't matter how many hours I sleep. I always feel tired. (regardless of)

4 I always wear earplugs in bed. I still wake up if I hear a noise. (in spite of)

5 History can be fascinating. I don't think I'd have the patience to be an historian. (having said that)

6 People in the past had few ways to amuse themselves during hours of darkness. I am amazed they didn't complain about insomnia. (considering)

7 Power naps don't work. At least they don't work for me. (as far as ... concerned)

8 The popular belief is that you need at least six hours sleep a night. But it is possible to manage on less. (contrary to)

Idioms luck

- 3 Complete these conversations.

1 A: How did you get into acting?

B: Actually it was never something I thought of as a career, but I _____ my break when a director saw me in an amateur production at a drama festival.

2 A: Am I too late to get tickets for the concert next Saturday?

B: Yes, I'm afraid you've _____ the boat there; tickets sold out on Monday.

3 A: Liu is an incredibly dedicated worker, isn't he?

B: Yes, the company really _____ gold when they found him!

4 A: This project has been a disaster from the start. First we couldn't get permission to build a new well; then the contractor never showed up.

B: Don't give up, though. I know nothing's _____ your way so far, but your luck is bound to change.

5 A: How did the interview go?

B: I think I _____ my chances when I said I was only looking for a temporary position.

6 A: How did he make his money?

B: Mostly by buying shares in Internet companies. He really _____ the jackpot when he bought shares in Yahoo! when it was just a young business.

7c Mutiny on the *Bounty*

Reading trouble in paradise

- 1 Read the definition of *mutiny*. Then use these words to complete the summary of the story.

mutiny (n) unlawful refusal to obey one's commander or the authorities, especially rebellion by sailors against their superior officers

burned	breadfruit	boat	captain	mutineers
mutiny	ocean	one	Pitcairn	returned
Tahitians	uninhabited	women sailed		

In 1787, the *Bounty*¹ _____ from Spithead in England on its way to Tahiti to collect² _____ to take to the West Indies. After six months in Tahiti, the acting mate led a³ _____ against the cruel⁴ _____ William Bligh. They put him and some of his crew in a⁵ _____ and cast him adrift on the⁶ _____. Miraculously, Bligh managed to survive and⁷ _____ to England. Some of Christian's crew stayed in Tahiti, but Christian himself, eight other crew and some⁸ _____ journeyed on to⁹ _____, a small¹⁰ _____ island in the South Sea. Here he¹¹ _____ the ship. Following arguments between the¹² _____ and the¹³ _____, fighting broke out, resulting in the deaths of all but¹⁴ _____ of the original crew.

- 2 Read the summary again and answer these questions.

1 When and where did this mutiny happen?

2 What was the motive for the mutiny?

3 Did the story end happily, or not?

- 3 Answer these questions.

1 What was the reason for the ship's voyage?

2 What became of the captain and the crew that was loyal to him?

- 3 What did Christian do to the *Bounty* after he arrived at Pitcairn?

Word focus *bear*

- 4 Complete the sentences and make expressions with *bear*. The first letter of the missing words has been given for you.

- 1 **bear a r** _____ to means "look like"
- 2 **bear f** _____ means "have a positive or productive result"
- 3 **bear in m** _____ that means "make a mental note of"
- 4 **bear the b** _____ of means "take the full force of"
- 5 **bear a g** _____ means "be resentful and not forgive"
- 6 **bear w** _____ to means "provide evidence of"



7d A defining moment in history

Real life asking for confirmation and clarification

1 Look at the photo and read to the comments made by various members of the audience following a history lecture.

- 1 Thank you for a very interesting talk. I'd just like to **pick up on one thing you said about the code**, which is that it was written on clay tablets. **If that's the case, then how was it possible for it to be read and learned by a lot of people?**
- 2 If I understood correctly, you said that most of Hammurabi's laws concerned work and contracts between people. **Can you expand on that?**
- 3 You mentioned that there were other countries in the region that had codes of law, not just Babylon. Am I right in thinking that the **significant thing about this code** is that it covers such a wide range of activities: work life, family life, military service, and so on?
- 4 The logical conclusion of your argument seems to be that this code is significant not just because it's one of the first set of laws to be discovered, but because it's one of the longest pieces of written text. **Is that what you're saying?**
- 5 Perhaps I missed something, but was Hammurabi trying to create a legal system where people had to prove their innocence using evidence? **And how does that fit in with other legal codes of the same period?**

2 What was the topic of the lecture? Choose the best option (a–c).

- a an early set of laws
- b an early secret code
- c one of the first books to be written

3 Look at the expressions in bold in the reading. These expressions are often used to ask for confirmation and clarification. Which expressions in Exercise 1 do the following?

- 1 seek confirmation of the lecturer's opinion
- 2 ask for clarification or more information



4 Writing a history lecture

Imagine you are reading about Hammurabi's code of laws. Read each fact. Use the information to make a question asking for confirmation or clarification of what you have read. Then compare what you say with the model answer that follows.

- 1 This code of laws was written almost 4,000 years ago.

Are you saying that these are the earliest known laws?

- 2 Some of the laws concerned family relationships.

- 3 The code consisted of 282 laws in total.

- 4 The complete code can still be read on a large stone in the Louvre Museum in Paris.

- 5 Some people say that the laws were actually just a way of glorifying Hammurabi, by recording what a wise and great king he was.

7e A great folly

Writing describing a past event

- 1 Read the essay about the Charge of the Light Brigade and answer the questions.

- 1 What was the result of this cavalry charge?

- 2 How does the writer express a view about this event?



The notorious Charge of the Light Brigade took place during the battle of Balaclava in 1854 between a joint British-French-Turkish force and the Russian army. The British and French were positioned to the west of a valley with the main Russian army and guns facing them at the other end in the east. The Russians had some hours earlier captured British guns on hills on the south side of the valley in fortified positions called redoubts.

Viewing the scene from a hill behind the British lines, Lord Raglan ordered the British cavalry to attack the redoubts on the south side. He passed this order to Captain Nolan who rode down into the valley to pass it on to the commander of the cavalry, Lord Lucan. Lucan, who did not have the advantage of being able to see the situation from a high vantage point, asked what guns were to be attacked. Nolan mistakenly indicated the guns at the eastern end of the valley.

Accordingly, 600 cavalymen set off down the valley straight for the main Russian force with guns firing at them from all sides. Approximately 200 returned. The following day, a French marshal, Bosquet, said of the action: "It is magnificent, but it is not war; it is madness."

- 2 Underline two time phrases in the article that do the following.

- a indicate a time before the main event (para 1)
- b tell you about an event that happened after the main event (para 3)

3 Writing skill sequencing events

Read the first sentence in each pair. Complete the second sentence with a past time phrase.

- 1 He is working for a bank now.
He was working for a bank _____.
- 2 Nowadays it is normal to do military service.
_____ it was normal to do military service.
- 3 She arrived a few days ago.
She had arrived _____.
- 4 Up to now no one has heard of airplanes.
_____ no one had heard of airplanes.
- 5 The election takes place tomorrow.
The election took place _____.
- 6 Last year there was a bad storm.
_____ there had been a bad storm.

- 4 In 1937, the Hindenburg airship exploded while docking at a naval station in New Jersey. Use these notes to write an account of an amazing escape from the Hindenburg disaster.

Hindenburg airship passes over Boston, morning May 6.

Hindenburg left Germany for USA, May 3.

Bad weather delays landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Cabin boy Werner Franz works in kitchen on board Hindenburg.

He plans to visit New York before Hindenburg returns to Germany on May 7.

The captain is trying to steer the airship next to a docking tower.

There is a loud bang and Werner sees a big ball of flame. The skin of the ship has broken and the hydrogen inside has ignited.

The ship crashes to the ground. Horrified onlookers run for their lives.

Franz opens the kitchen hatch where food is pulled up into the kitchen and jumps.

He runs to safety.

Ten minutes after the fire starts, there is nothing left of the airship.



Wordbuilding noun formation

1 Complete these sentences with nouns formed from the given verbs.

- 1 The army suffered its worst _____ of the campaign. (defeat)
- 2 The generals planned the _____ for months. (invade)
- 3 The army met with strong _____ from the local inhabitants. (resist)
- 4 The government agreed to make an _____ to the law. (amend)
- 5 No one actually gave the _____ to attack. (command)

Learning skills revising in writing

2 In your Student Book, various models are presented for different types of writing, and it is always useful to follow a basic structure for each type of writing. Bear in mind, however, the following points about the act of writing.

- 1 Writing is not always a linear process of planning, drafting, and revising. Everyone composes their writing in a different way.
- 2 Your ideas will develop as you write, so you don't have to stick to a pre-determined plan.
- 3 It doesn't really matter where you start. You could start with your introduction, your conclusion, or in the middle, with examples or an analysis of the situation.
- 4 It's natural to rethink and revise your ideas while you are writing.
- 5 Wait until the end to check the grammar or sentence structure, or you will interrupt the flow of your thoughts.
- 6 Remember that the best writing is economical. So, when rereading at the end, pay attention to what seems unnecessary and cut it!

Check!

3 Do this crossword. All the answers are in Student Book Unit 7.

Across

- 2 the decline of this Empire is strangely connected to a drought in Africa (5)
- 5 see 14 Across

- 7 Herodotus was called "The...of history" (6)
- 9 the river where interesting objects from the Middle Ages were excavated (6)
- 10 the world's biggest volcanic eruption took place over 130 years...in 1883 (3)
- 12 Herodotus believed in the importance of good ...telling (5)
- 13 the date of the invasion of Greece by Xerxes II was 480... (2)
- 14 and 5 Across in 2008, a geologist discovered the...of a Portuguese trading vessel (4, 5)

Down

- 1 it is said that Genghis Khan's soldiers could fire an...while riding at full speed (5)
- 2 for the people of Mongolia, Genghis Khan is a hero; others know him as a...warlord (8)
- 3 the type of history that focuses on the daily lives of individuals and communities (5)
- 4 a small Spartan force held off the Persian army at a...mountain pass at Thermopylae (6)
- 6 the volcanic island which exploded violently in 1883 (8)
- 8 the...Desert in southwest Africa is rich in diamonds washed down from the mountains (5)
- 9 the discovery of these objects helps us to know what childhood was like in the Middle Ages (4)
- 11 following the volcanic eruption of 1883 there was a...in global temperatures of 1.2 degrees (4)

