

# 1 Water, water

In this unit you will practise the simple past tense, the passive voice, and direct and indirect speech.

## Practising the simple past tense

Most of *Morning in the Desert* is written in the simple present tense. In the extracts below, the original simple present-tense verbs have been left out.

- Fill in the gaps with the missing form of the verb in the past tense. The first one is done for you.

The sky was pearl-grey when I \_\_\_\_\_. My sister Phulan \_\_\_\_\_ me out of bed. I \_\_\_\_\_ a piece of soap into the corner of my *chador*. I \_\_\_\_\_ up two earthen pots and a padded ring to balance one pot on my head. My camel, Mithoo, and I \_\_\_\_\_ for the water hole, the *toba*. Mithoo's small brass bell \_\_\_\_\_ cheerfully as he \_\_\_\_\_ his head, impatient for me to fold back the reed door which \_\_\_\_\_ from our courtyard to the outside. I \_\_\_\_\_ Mithoo carry the empty goatskin to the *toba*.

At the *toba* I \_\_\_\_\_ over our dwindling water supply. Two-toed camel footprints \_\_\_\_\_ baked into the shiny clay at the outer edges of the *toba*. I \_\_\_\_\_ my skirt with one hand, and the mud \_\_\_\_\_ between my toes as I \_\_\_\_\_ the water. I \_\_\_\_\_ the filled pot to the bathing rock at the edge of the *toba* and \_\_\_\_\_ my tunic over my head. I \_\_\_\_\_ my hair forward and \_\_\_\_\_ water over it.

The sun \_\_\_\_\_ over the horizon. I \_\_\_\_\_ the soap into my hair. I \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes shut, letting the soapy water drain down my shoulders and neck, rubbing into my skin before rinsing off to preserve every drop.

The sun \_\_\_\_\_ extremely hot as I \_\_\_\_\_ back. Over the next week we \_\_\_\_\_ our water dwindle yet further. In the heat of the afternoons, before the daily wind and dust \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_ herbs. As the precious water \_\_\_\_\_ away with the hot desert wind, we also \_\_\_\_\_ our preparations for leaving the *toba* and moving on.

**Extension** Write out all the irregular verbs in the past tense that you have used. These are ones that don't end in -ed.

## Vocabulary

- Find the vocabulary below in the extract from *Morning in the Desert* in your Student Book and match each word with the correct definition.

to yawn		plants used to flavour food
earthen		having a bright surface that catches the light
to balance		to open the mouth wide to take in air
brass		to fall slowly – usually a liquid, in drops
to dwindle		to cause liquid to flow out of something
shiny		to place something carefully so it does not fall
impurities		dirt or other unwanted substances
to pour		the skin on the top and back of the head
to trickle		metallic substance made from copper and zinc
scalp		to gradually become less and less
to rinse		to a very great extent
single		happening every day
extremely		just one
daily		to wash soap or dirt away with clean water
herbs		made out of earth or clay, often baked hard

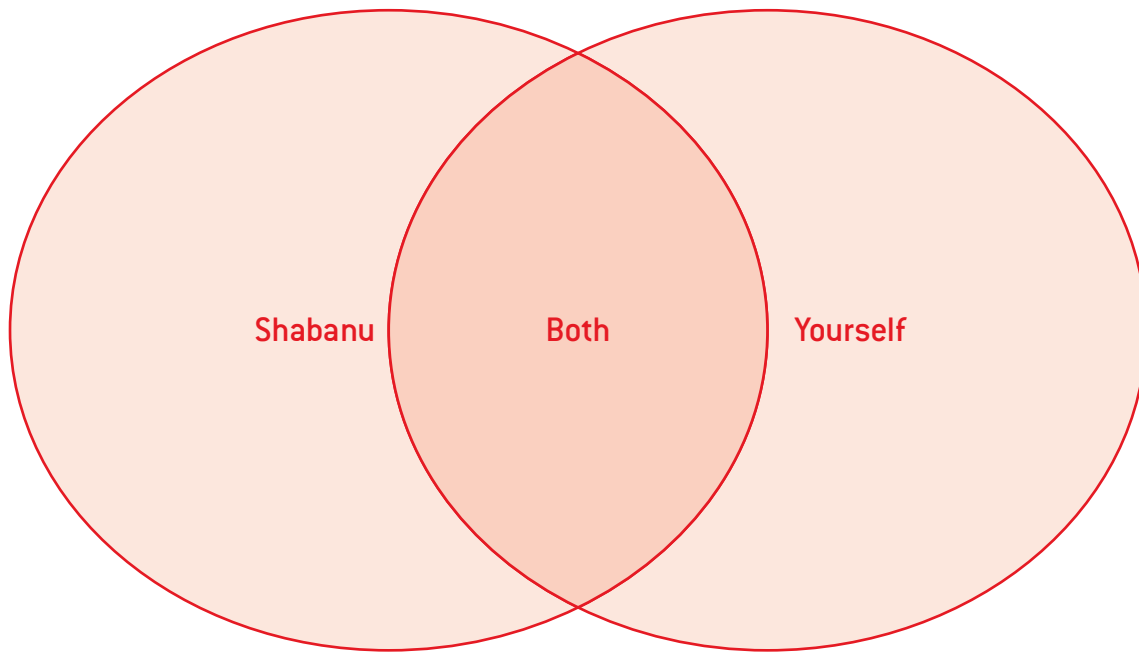
## English names

List all the first names you can think of in English that come from other words.

Rose, Heather, Daisy ...

**Extension** Add new words from the vocabulary list to your word pool.

- ▶ Include the notes you have made in the Venn diagram in the different paragraphs of your composition.



Although Shabanu and I have very different lives, there are things that we both do every day ...

However, Shabanu's day is different from mine in several ways ...

In contrast, my day involves ...

## Practising the passive voice

Look back at the Carisbrooke Castle leaflet on pages 10–11 of your Student Book. Many of the sentences use forms of the verb ‘to be’ (*are, be, is, was* and *were*), followed by a past tense form of the verb to create the passive voice. For example: ‘The well at Carisbrooke Castle *was dug* in 1136.’

The passive voice can be changed into the active voice by rearranging the order of the words. You either need to add information about whoever is doing the action, or move it to the beginning of the sentence. The example above can be changed to: ‘*The Normans dug* the well at Carisbrooke Castle in 1136.’

- Change the sentences below from the passive to the active voice in the past tense.

The well at Carisbrooke Castle <u>was dug</u> in 1136.	The Normans <u>dug</u> the well at Carisbrooke Castle in 1136.
The main castle walls were built by Norman rulers.	
A wooden bucket was used to collect water.	
The treadwheels are still worked today by a team of six donkeys.	
Donkey power was introduced to the castle.	
In 1587 the treadwheel was re-built.	

- The following sentences are related to the water wheels at Hama. Change them from the active to the passive voice.

You <u>can find</u> Hama about 40 kilometres from Aleppo.	Hama <u>can be found</u> about 40 kilometres from Aleppo.
The wheels bring up water from the River Orontes.	
Water fills and drives the wooden boxes.	
River water was used to irrigate the surrounding farmland.	
The people of Hama built 30 <i>norias</i> in the 13th century.	
The wheels require no other form of power.	

## Making a leaflet

- ▶ Use the information on the water wheels at Hama to draft ideas for a leaflet about them.

Make up three possible titles for your leaflet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>The water wheel wonders of Hama</i></li><li>●</li><li>●</li></ul>
Use three facts or statistics to give your leaflet detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●</li><li>●</li><li>●</li></ul>
Describe three things a visitor could do at the water wheels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●</li><li>●</li><li>●</li></ul>

- ▶ Plan your own leaflet below, showing the layout and images you will use as well as the text.

**Extension** Design a leaflet for a place you know well. Make the most effective use of words, pictures, colours and other design features.

## Practising direct and indirect speech

The text of *The River Gypsies* contains examples of direct speech that report Babu's exact words. To report what Babu said, indirect speech would be used.

- Make notes comparing the words and punctuation in the examples below.

<p>'My friend needs the snake catchers,' Babu said to me. Babu said that his friend needed the snake catchers.</p>	
Punctuation differences:	Word differences:

Writing direct speech involves putting quotation marks around the words that are said. Indirect speech often needs the word 'that' to be added and pronouns to be changed.

Verb tenses are also changed when moving from direct to indirect speech. As a rule, direct speech in any present-tense form is changed into a past-tense form when reported indirectly.

- Change the present-tense direct speech examples below into indirect speech.

<p>'It <u>is</u> fast-flowing water,' said the police officer.</p>	<p>The police officer said it <u>was</u> fast-flowing water.</p>
<p>'Cobras are usually venomous,' warned the zoo keeper.</p>	
<p>'I am learning Chinese,' replied the girl.</p>	
<p>'The old man has a snake in his house,' Babu explained.</p>	
<p>'The weather has been terrible,' he said.</p>	
<p>'If the earth smells of fish, then the men know there's a snake inside,' Babu whispered.</p>	

**Extension** Highlight the verbs you have changed in each example.

## Writing an account

- ▶ Write an account of The River Gypsies catching the cobras from the old man's point of view.

When I heard the river gypsies were in the village, I ...

## Discussing the painting

- ▶ Reflect on your group discussion about the painting. Fill out the table below to record examples of the points made in indirect speech.

Putting forward an original opinion	I said I thought the person on the left was thinking about whether it was going to rain.
Putting forward an original opinion	
Bringing in an idea from another painting or text	
Collaborating with another person to explore an idea further	

**Extension** Highlight all of the verbs you have used in your account.

**Water, water word pool**

- ▶ Use the space below to record any new words that you have come across while you have been studying this unit.

**Wordpool**

treadwheel

**My own vocabulary**

- ▶ Choose ten of the most important, useful or interesting words from your word pool and write down their definitions.

horizon	The point in the distance where the sky and earth appear to meet

**Extension** Read around the topic of water, and add more words to your word pool and vocabulary list.