

UNIT 3

What A Pity!



Pic. 3.1 (<http://images.google.co.id>)

In this unit, you will learn how to:

- understand short and simple transactional and interpersonal texts. involving giving and responding to bad news
- understand short and short functional texts in the form of personal letters
- read aloud short and simple personal letters responding to bad news
- write short an simple personal letters responding to bad news

Section One:

Expressing and responding to bad news

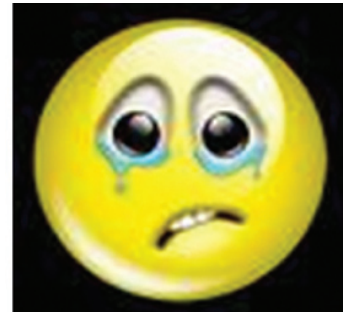
Presentation

Activity 1



From the face in the picture we can tell how he feels. How do you think the boy in the picture feels?

He looks sad because he might have got bad news. When he tells you about his bad news, how would you respond it? What expressions would you use in the situation?



Pic. 3.2 (<http://images.google.co.id>)

Activity 2



Study the following short dialogues. Read them aloud while paying attention to the responses.

Jono : My uncle didn't get the job after all.
Joko : **Oh, what a pity!**

Evi : Have you heard that 300 people were killed when a plane crashed this morning?
Yuni : **Oh, how terrible!**

Sinta : My uncle's house is drowned because of Lapindo mudflood. Now they are staying with us. The kids lost most of their school stuff.
Ulfa : **I'm sorry to hear that.** Let me know if you need anything, ok?

Aning : You look sad,Ucok. Is anything wrong?
Ucok : I've lost my wallet.
Aning : Did you put some money in it?
Ucok : That's the problem. I put the school fee for this month.
Aning : **Oh dear. That's a pity!**

Kuncoro : Look at this news. A ship was reported to have sunk into the ocean due to a fire. Thirty passengers were killed including a three-month-old baby and two pregnant mothers.
Fatimah : **Oh no! How dreadful.**

Activity 3



The following expressions below are some of the expressions that you can use to respond to bad news. Read them aloud with the correct pronunciation and intonation.

Responding to very bad news

1. How awful!
2. How terrible!
3. I'm really sorry to hear that.
4. That must've been awful!
5. That must've been terrible!

Responding to less serious news

1. Oh no!
2. What a pity!
3. What a shame!
4. What a nuisance!
5. Poor you.

Activity 4



Bad news may come from people regretting for the mistakes they have done. What do you say when you regret for the things you have done and what do you say when you hear someone regrets for the things he or she has done? Study the following short dialogues and read them aloud while giving attention to the expressions in bold type.

Dialogue 1

Ani : You look different, Ali. What is the matter?

Ani : **I don't know why I did not study hard for the exam.** I failed the exam.

Ali : **Don't take it so badly.** Next time better.

Ali : Thanks a lot for your concern.

Dialogue 2

Bambang : **I really regret rushing off the house.**

Anita : What happened?

Bambang : I knocked an old woman down.

Anita : Was she injured?

Bambang : Not seriously, actually.

Anita : **Don't blame yourself.** It could happen to anyone

Dialogue 3

Endah : **I can't think why I never listened to your advice.**

Simatupang : Why did you say that? Is there anything wrong?

Endah : Yes. I rode my motorcycle carelessly and hit a tree. It broke down.
Luckily, I did not get seriously injured.

Simatupang : **I know how you must be feeling, but that could be a good lesson for you to be more careful in the future.**

Activity 5



The following are expressions we can use for expressing regrets. Read them with the correct pronunciation and intonation

I don't know why I never listened to your advice
I'm really sorry I didn't listen to your advice
I really regret having hurt your feeling
I really regret not obeying your advice

Activity 6



The following are expressions we can use for responding to regrets. Read them with the correct pronunciation and intonation.

1. Don't take it badly
2. Don't blame yourself
3. I know how you must be feeling, but it could happen to anyone.

Practice

Activity 1



Practice acting out the following dialogues. After that, answer the questions after the dialogues.

Dialogue 1

(Anita and Julia are reading a newspaper in the library)

Anita : Look! Oh no.

Julia : What is it?

Anita : It's about the earthquake and the tsunami in Aceh. It's really terrible. The news states that at around 8 a.m. the earthquake shook the land of Aceh and the tsunami burst out not long after that. They destroyed the land 15 minutes later. More than two hundred thousand people died and many were missing.

Julia : It's unbelievable.

(Anton joins them).

Anita : Hi, Anton. How are you?

Anton : Not so good.

Anita : Why? Are you sick?

Anton : No. This morning I watched TV. All the news was about the tsunami in Aceh and North Sumatra. You know, most of my relatives live there.

Anita & Julia: **We are really sorry to hear that.**

Anton : Thanks for your concern.

Questions:

1. What does it mean when Anita says "Oh, no"?
2. What is the bad news?
3. What does she mean when Julia says "It's unbelievable"?

At school. It is Wednesday

Dialogue 1

Tami : Excuse me, Sir. I'd like to ask for your permission to be absent for a couple of days.

Mr Hardi : Why? What's the matter, Tami?

Tami : Well, my father is ill. He's going to have an operation.

Mr Hardi: **Oh, dear. I'm sorry to hear that.** How long will you be absent?

Tami : I hope to be back next Friday.

Mr. Hardi: That's all right, Tami. And I hope your father will get better soon.

Questions:

1. Who is Mr. Hardi to Tami?
2. What is the bad news?
3. How does Mr Hardi show his concern?

Activity 2



Work orally in pairs with these situations. One gives the news and the other responds to the news in an appropriate way.

1. Ani : Thousands of people were killed during the earthquake last month.
Ali :
2. Bambang : My uncle passed away last week. He died of heart attack.
Joko :

3. Asep : Someone stole my mobile phone when I was sleeping on the bus.
Ujang :
4. Helena: My sister hit her mouth on the car door and broke a tooth.
Maria :
5. Siska : My vacation at the beach was terrible. It rained hard all day.
Susan :

Activity 3



Complete these dialogues by using suitable expressions. In pairs act the dialogues out after that.

1. A : Hey! What happened to your leg?
B : I hurt it playing football.
A : _____ How did you do that?
B : I fell as I was running to get the ball.
A : _____
B : Yes. I won't be able to play for a month.
2. A : Did you hear that there was a burglary at the Hasans's house?
B : _____ What happened?
A : Well, when they came back from their holiday, almost all their furniture had been stolen, their new TV set and stereo too!.
3. A : I won't be able to come to your party tonight. I'm afraid I'm not feeling well.
B : _____
A : Yes. I think I've got the flu. I've got a fever and a terrible headache.
B : _____

Activity 4



Now, your teacher is going to read the complete version of the incomplete dialogue below. While listening complete the dialogue and answer the questions about the dialogue.

- Edy : You look worried , Anang. What's the matter?
Anang : I can't seem to up in the mornings.
Edy :! That's a problem. But don't you have an alarm clock?
Anang : Yes, of course, but I never seem to hear it.
Edy : Well, why don't you buy an electric one? They go on ringing until you switch them off.
Anang : Yes, that a good idea.

Questions:

1. What is the problem with Anang?
2. How does Edy react to Anang's problem?
3. What kind of suggestion does Edy give to Anang?

Activity 5



Study the following dialogue about a terrible weather.

- A : Hi, Nirina. This is Surya. I'm calling from Kuta.
B : From Kuta? What are you doing in Kuta?
A : I'm on vacation.
B : How's the weather in Kuta? Is it sunny?
A : No, it isn't. It's been raining for the whole week.
B : You cannot have a good time then.
A : No, of course not. I'm having a terrible time here. I regret going to Bali in the rainy season. I don't know why I never listened to you.
B : Don't take it so badly. You still can have a lot to enjoy in the rainy season there.

Activity 6



It's your turn now to make a similar dialogue. This is the situation: You're on vacation, and the weather is terrible. Call a classmate.

- A : Hi, _____. This is _____. I'm calling from _____.
B : From _____? What are you doing in _____?
A : I'm on vacation.
B : How's the weather in _____? Is it _____?
A : No, it isn't. It's been _____.
B : You cannot _____.
A : No, of course not. I'm having a terrible time here. I _____.
I don't know why I never listened to you.
B : Don't take it so badly. You _____.

Production



Now in pairs create your own dialogues based on the situations below. Then present your dialogue in front of the class.

1. You call your friend and invite him to play football together. Your friend politely refuses because he just got a traffic accident. He was hit by a car from the back. Now he has to wear a cast. Express your regret and promise to visit him soon.
2. Your sister calls you from a bus station and tells you that she has been waiting for an hour but you have not appeared. Express your deep regret for keeping her waiting and tell her to wait for some more minutes.

Section Two:

Written news items

Presentation

Activity 1



Have you also written a letter responding to bad news?

How do you write it?

Have you also written a letter expressing regrets?

How do you write it?

Activity 2



Read the following letters and answer the questions that follow.

Jakarta, November 1, 2006

Dear Miss Ana,
I heard from my classmate Mila that you are hospitalized. I'm so sorry to hear about your condition. I really would like to visit you but I'm still in Jakarta and won't be back until the end of the month. My prayers for your health. I'll visit you as soon as I arrive in Surabaya.

Best regards,
Kiki

Hi Dimas, what's up pal! Toni told me you just got an accident. He said you would miss our game against Diponegoro Secondary School. What a pity! Don't worry about it friend! Get well soon!

Wirman

1. What type of letters are they?
2. Do you notice the difference between the two? Which one is more formal?
3. How do you know?
4. How do you analyze the structure of a letter? Could you identify the following parts in both letters?

Parts	Letter 1	Letter 2
Date		
Greetings		
Body		
Expression of sympathy		
Closing		
Salutation		

Activity 3



The following extract mentions steps of writing a letter responding to bad news. The text has been modified from the text in the internet written by Andrea Miller. Originally the text was written for letters of condolence for someone's death. However it could be used as a guide for making letters responding to bad news. Read the text carefully and try to understand what you do in each of the steps.

Step 1. Acknowledge the sadness

As a starting point you need to acknowledge the sadness.

Examples could be:

I was sorry to hear that

I was very upset to hear

I was terribly sorry to learn about

Step 2. Express Your Sympathy

Examples could be:

Please accept my sympathy for your

I want to express my heartfelt sympathy for

May the love of family and friends comfort you.

Step 3. Offer Assistance

But don't make offers you can't fulfill.

If there is anything I/we can do, I/we am/are only a phone call away.

If there is anything I can do such just let me know.

Please call if there is anything I can do.

Step 4. Close with a thoughtful word or phrase.

Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time..
May the love of family and friends comfort you.

Step 5. The Ending and Sign Off.

With love and sympathy,
Sincerely,
Your friend,
Love,
Affectionately yours,
Yours,
Very sincerely
With my deepest sympathy,
My fond respects to you and yours.

<http://www.funeral-poems.com/>

By Andrea Miller

Practice

Activity 1



Galang got an email from his friend telling him that her holiday is terrible. However, the letter cannot be read because it's torn. Help Galang reconstruct the letter by filling in the missing words.

Dear Galang,
I'm writing from our hotel at Pasir Putih Beach. I'm on vacation with my family. To tell the truth, we're having _____
The weather isn't very good. In fact, it's _____.
Right now I'm looking out the window, and it's _____ very _____

Food is another problem. The restaurants are _____ but the food isn't very good. In fact, my Mom is _____ right now. She got _____
Well Galang, I hope your vacation is _____. Tell me about it when the holiday is over.

Cheers,
Nia

Activity 2



Galang wants to write back to Nia, but his English is not so good. His letter is not well-arranged. Help him rearrange the letter telling Nia that he feels bad about Nia's vacation.

- ___ a. You must feel terrible there with nothing interesting to do.
- ___ b. I broke my legs when riding my bicycle.
- ___ c. Well, my vacation is not very good either.
- ___ d. Hi Nia. I got your email. What a nuisance!
- ___ e. Cheers. Galang
- ___ f. Now I have to wear a cast for at least one month.
- ___ g. Ok, Nia. Come back soon.

Activity 3



Now write Galang's letter in an appropriate letter style.

Production

Activity 1



Work individually. Try to write a letter to respond to the following situation

One of your classmates has been sick in the hospital for a week. The class has decided to visit him/her this evening, but you cannot go with them because you have to leave for Jakarta this afternoon for a national speech contest. Write a letter telling your regret and wish that she/he will get better soon.

Activity 2



Work individually. Try to write a short letter to respond to the following situation:

The younger brother of an Exchange Program student in your class from Australia is being hospitalised for cancer. She is now back home in Australia and has written you a letter telling about that. You want to write her back.



Pic. 3.3 (rob@gordon.id.au)

Homework

1. Search the internet for expressions used in each of all the steps for making letters responding to bad news, three expressions each.
2. Search the internet for
 - a. one dialogue of people expressing and responding to bad news
 - b. one example of letter expressing bad news.
 - c. one example of letter responding to bad news

Summary

In this unit you have learned

1. how to use expressions that show bad news (I have lost my wallet, My brother has been hospitalized for a week for an unknown illness, etc)
2. how to use expressions that are used to respond to bad news (What a pity, I am sorry to hear that. etc)
3. Steps of writing a letter responding to bad news (acknowledge the sadness, express your sympathy, offer assistance, close with a thoughtful word or phrase, the ending and sign off.

Evaluation

Activity 1



Respond to the following bad news, one different expression for one different situation.

1. One third of the people in the world do not have enough clean water.
2. Chemicals have destroyed ten percent of the ozone layer in Europe and North America.
3. Each year, people burn or cut down nearly 143,000 kilometers of forest.
4. Every day, Americans and Canadians produce 1.8 kilograms of garbage per person

Activity 2



Fill in the following two incomplete dialogues with appropriate expressions.

Dialogue 1

Hasan : What happened? You look so awful today

Jufri : I was having the worst week end in my life.

Hasan : I don't understand

Jufri : I lost wallet in the bus, and somebody tried to steal my hand phone.

Hasan : _____

Dialogue 2

Irene : Are you OK, Tony?

Toni : I must leave the class and go home now. I've just got a call from my home in Menado.

Irene : Was it a bad news?

Tony : _____

Irene : Please accept my condolences. If there's anything I can do for you, just tell me now.

Toni : No, Ir, but thanks anyway for your concern.

Activity 3



Rearrange the following sentences into a good letter responding to bad news.

1. Through this letter I want to accept my heart-felt sympathy for this sadness.
2. If there is anything I can do just call me or send me short messages.
3. I was very sorry to hear that your son had a motorcycle accident yesterday and that he had to be hospitalised.
4. With love and sympathy,
5. May the love of family and friends comfort you.

Reflection

1. What have you learned from this unit?
2. Which part in this unit is the most interesting to you?
3. Which part in this unit is the least interesting?
4. Have you found your English improved after doing the activities in this unit

Vocabulary List

Words	Parts of speech	Phonetic Transcription	Indonesian Equivalents
assistance	n	[ə'sistəns]	bantuan
terrible	n	['terɪbl]	sangat buruk
dreadful	v	['dredfʊl]	sangat jelek (cuaca)
sympathy	n	['sɪmpəθi]	simpati
torn	adj	[tɔ:n]	sobek
regret	n	[rɪ'gret]	penyesalan
nuisance	n	['nju:səns]	penyebab masalah
shame	n	[ʃeɪm]	sesuatu yang memalukan
respond	v	[rɪ'spɒnd]	menanggapi
exchange	n	[ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ]	pertukaran

Fun Page

HOUSES

There are houses
Made of wood,
And houses made of sticks;
There are houses
Made of mud,
And houses made of bricks.



Pic. 3.4 (Dit. PSMP, 2006)



Pic. 3.5 (Dit. PSMP, 2006)

There are houses
That are high,
And houses that are low;
There are houses
That are single,
And houses in a row.

There are houses
In the east,
And houses in the west;
There are houses all around me -
But my house is the best!



Pic. 3.6 (Dit. PSMP, 2006)

(source: Dit. PSMP, 2006)