

WRITING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- describe a process (Writing Part 1)
- use sequencing expressions to describe the order of stages in a process
- use the present simple passive to describe a process
- write an introduction and overview.

LEAD-IN

01 What foods do you eat at a family celebration? Do you know how to prepare them? Do you need any special equipment?

02 In Sri Lanka, a family meal often includes stringhoppers. To make stringhoppers you need some special equipment. Choose the best description of each piece of equipment.



1 Stringhopper press

- A It has two parts which are different in shape but the same size. It is made of a light material such as plastic.
- B It's made of heavy metal and has two parts which are similar in shape. The centre is round and there are handles on each side. One part fits into the other.
- C It has two parts and one goes on top of the other. It is square in shape and made of wood.



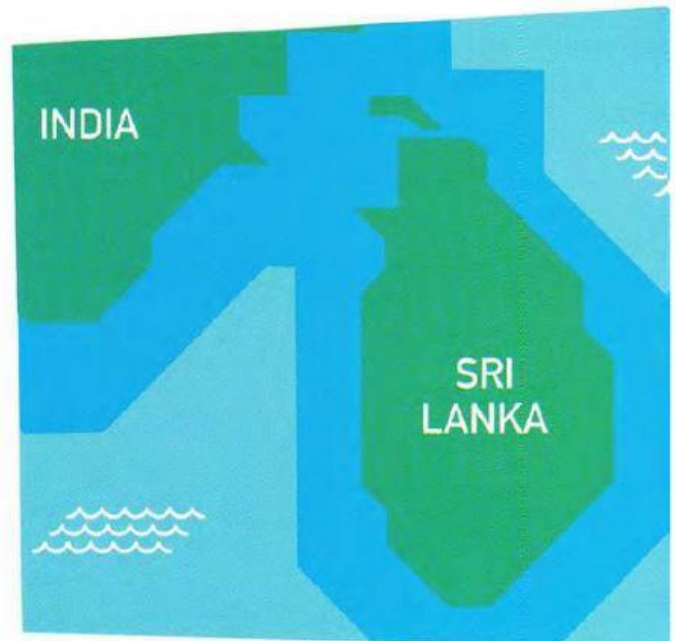
2 Stringhopper mats

- A These are round shallow baskets made of thin pieces of wood. The wood is in a criss-cross pattern to form large holes.
- B These are cloth triangles with very small holes in them.
- C These are thick pieces of wood with rectangular holes in them.



3 Rice grinder

- A It is made of metal and the top and bottom are the same size and shape.
- B It is a metal machine with a wide base and a narrow tray on top.
- C It is a machine made of metal with a wide tray at the top and a narrower base.



03 Complete the chart with words from exercise 2.

Materials	Parts	Shapes
plastic	handles	round

PART 1: DESCRIBING A PROCESS

04 The pictures show the process of making stringhoppers. Match the short instructions to the pictures.



- a push through the stringhopper press onto the stringhopper mats
- b add water to the flour
- c put the rice into the grinder and grind into flour
- d cook in a steamer
- e serve with spicy curries
- f mix well to form a dough



We use the present simple passive to describe a process.

We make them with rice.
You mix it with water.

→ They are made with rice.
→ It is mixed with water.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: THE PRESENT SIMPLE PASSIVE

05 Complete the sentences about tea. Use the verbs in brackets in the present simple passive.

- 1 Tea leaves _____ (pick) by hand.
- 2 Only the best leaves _____ (use).
- 3 A lot of water _____ (need) to grow tea plants successfully.
- 4 A lot of tea _____ (grow) in China and India.



GRAMMAR FOCUS: SEQUENCING WORDS

06 Complete the sentences about making stringhoppers with words from the box.

After Finally First Next The next stage Then

- 1 _____, the rice is put through a grinder.
- 2 _____ that, water is added to the flour.
- 3 _____ it is mixed and made into a dough.
- 4 _____ is to push the dough through the stringhopper press.
- 5 _____ the stringhoppers are placed in a steamer.
- 6 _____, they are served with spicy curries.

TIP 06

When describing the stages in a process, it is important to use sequencing expressions, for example *first, then, next*, to clearly show the order of the stages.

WRITING AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

07 Which of these is an introduction and which is an overview?

- a There are six stages in the process of making stringhoppers, beginning with grinding the rice and making a dough and ending with using a steamer to cook the stringhoppers.
- b The diagram demonstrates the process of preparing stringhoppers, a kind of noodle.



In Writing Task 1 your answer should include an introduction and an overview. The **introduction** is usually the task question rewritten in your own words. The **overview** is a summary of the process.

08 Which of these are NOT overviews?

- a The process of making blue cheese can be seen in this series of pictures.
- b To make a perfect omelette you need fresh ingredients, the right equipment and the correct technique. You must also cook it for the correct amount of time and pay attention to the temperature.
- c The production of tea involves a range of stages, from picking the leaves from the plant to drying and distributing it.
- d The diagram shows the various stages in the process of making strawberry jam. The first stage is to pick the strawberries when they are ripe.

STUDYING A MODEL ANSWER

09 Study the essay opposite and find:

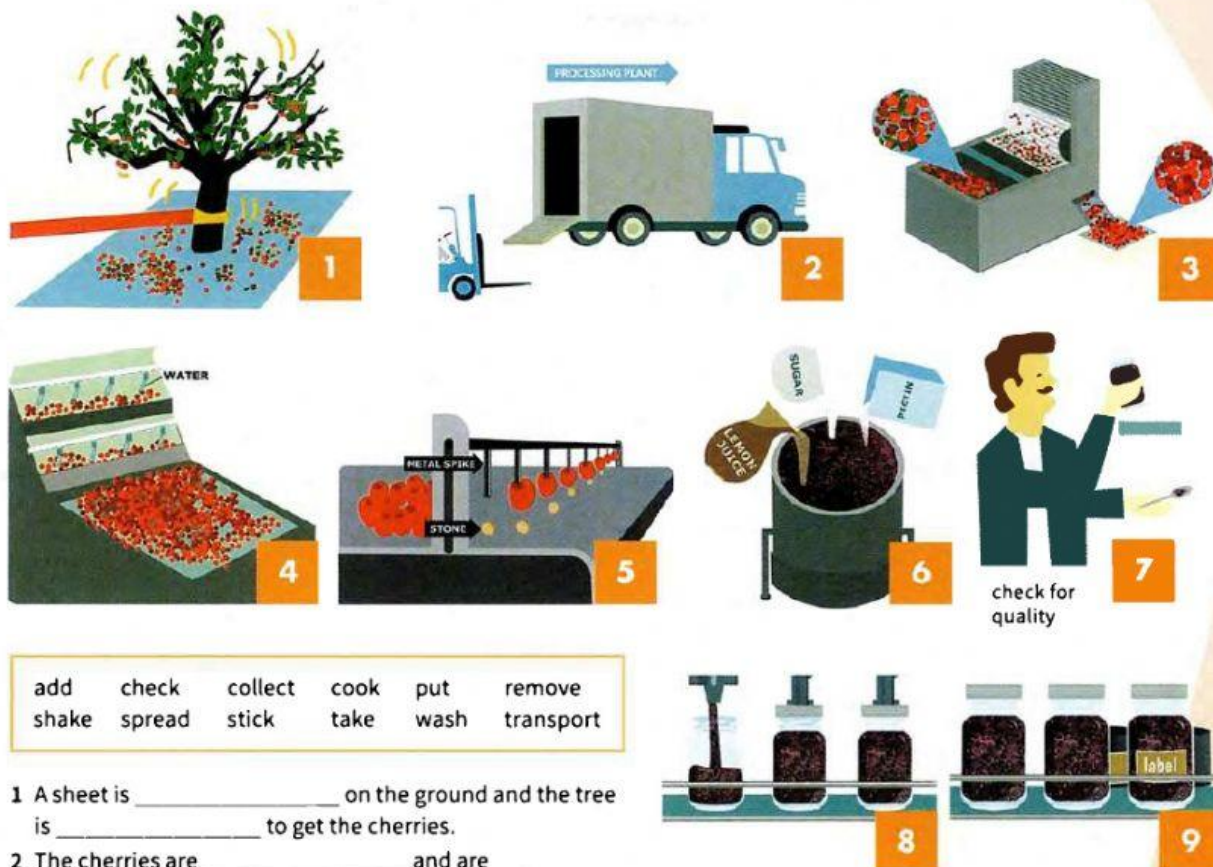
- 1 the introduction
- 2 the overview
- 3 sequencing expressions
- 4 verbs in the present simple passive
- 5 descriptions of the equipment
- 6 vocabulary from the short instructions in exercise 4

MODEL ANSWER

The diagram demonstrates the process of preparing stringhoppers, a kind of noodle dish. There are six main stages in the process, beginning with grinding the rice and making a dough and ending with using a steamer to cook the stringhoppers.

First, the dry rice is put into a rice grinder to make it into flour. Next, the flour is mixed with water and formed into dough. After that, the dough is put into a stringhopper press, which is a metal piece of equipment with two handles and holes in it. The dough is pushed through the holes and it comes out as thin noodles. The noodle 'nests' are placed onto individual stringhopper mats, which are round baskets made of thin pieces of wood. They are then cooked in a steamer until they are ready. The final stage is to serve the stringhoppers with a variety of spicy curries.

- 10** Look at the pictures, which show the process of making cherry jam. Complete the sentences with a verb from the box in the correct form.



add check collect cook put remove
shake spread stick take wash transport

- 1 A sheet is _____ on the ground and the tree is _____ to get the cherries.
- 2 The cherries are _____ and are _____ to the processing plant.
- 3 The leaves and stems are _____.
- 4 The cherries are _____.
- 5 The stone is _____ out of the middle of the cherry.
- 6 The cherries are _____ and extra ingredients are _____.
- 7 The quality of the jam is _____.
- 8 The jam is _____ into jars.
- 9 A label is _____ on the jars.

EXAM SKILLS

- 11** The pictures show the process of making cherry jam. Describe the process.

Remember to:

- include an introduction and an overview
- use the present simple passive
- use sequencing expressions
- write 150 words.

TIP 11

Use the words on the pictures and diagrams in your answer. They are given to help you.