

UNIT 6

La modalité / The environment

1 - Verbs and prepositions.

. To the distal propositioner.			
Complete the following sentences with the suitable preposition. Answers are provided in the Key at the end of the unit.			
 The exercise consists summing up and commenting on the text. The exercise thus consists two steps. Have you heard the forthcoming storm? If only you would listen the news sometimes, you wouldn't be relying me all the time! Only the U.N. has the power to interfere a country's decisions. The Nobel Prize said he hoped an end to political violence in his country. If you don't understand all the vocabulary, you need to infer the meaning the context. Please do not insist my participation. I have no intention of getting involved the dispute. I leave it my superior to hire you. It's up him. Leave your résumé and he will call you. I expect all the students to participate the debate. "Did you know that Rover merged BMW?" "I'd say it was more a case of BMW taking Rover". He's mad online games. His parents are not so keen them. They rather disapprove them. 2.a - Grammar : La modalité.			
✓ Le preterit modal			
Le preterit modal. Le preterit modal, contrairement au preterit temporel ne dit rien du passé mais s'utilise pour un fait présenté comme irréel.			
Comparez: He came and we went to the cinema. Il est venu et nous sommes allés au cinéma. On pourrait ajouter 'yesterday'. Il s'agit d'un <u>preterit temporel</u> . If he came, we would go to the cinema. S'il venait, nous irions au cinéma. Impossible d'ajouter 'yesterday' dans ce cas. Il s'agit d'un <u>preterit modal</u> .			
Le preterit modal se conjugue comme le preterit temporel SAUF pour « If I were rich » / « I wish I were rich » (et non if I was / I wish I was). [UNIT 5]			
<u>Wish</u>			
I wish I knew the truth. J'aimerais connaître la vérité ou Je regrette ne pas connaître la vérité. à à la négation => I wish I didn't know the truth. Je regrette de connaître la vérité. I wish you had told me the truth. J'aurais aimé que tu me dises la vérité. Je regrette que tu ne m'aies pas dit la vérité. I wish you would come (1) / could come (2) J'aimerais que tu viennes. (sous- entendu (1) que tu acceptes de venir / (2) que tu puisses venir)			
<u>I'd rather</u> [UNIT 5]			
l'd rather come with you (même sujet : infinitif) l'd rather <u>you</u> came with me tomorrow (sujets différents : preterit modal) l'd rather <u>you</u> had been with me.			
If only he weren't so lazy. (he weren't et non pas he wasn't) Suppose / Imagine he called tomorrow, what should I say? It's (high) time he gave us an answer. He behaved as if he were still a child.			
✓ Les modaux			
En utilisant un modal, l'énonciateur prend position, permet, ne permet pas, s'exprime sur le caractère certain voire moins certain (en utilisant la forme passée du modal) d'un énoncé etc.			
au contexte car la forme passée d'un modal ne renvoie pas nécessairement à du passé. One never knows what might happen in the future => <i>might</i> , forme passée de <i>may</i> parle du futur ! I could do it if you asked me => je pourrais le faire si vous me le demandiez => valeur d'irréel.			

Comparez:

He may **not be** his father = il se peut qu'il ne soit pas son père. (il s'agit ici d'une modalité de la phrase). La négation porte sur *be*. On est dans le domaine du possible et du probable.

He **may not** leave = il n'a pas la permission de partir (il s'agit ici d'une modalité du sujet). La négation porte sur le modal. On est dans le domaine de l'ordre, de la permission, de la capacité, incapacité (du sujet).

2.b - Exercises

Complétez les phrases en employant un auxiliaire de modalité.

1.	1. He run hundreds of miles when he was young.		
2.	2. The audience (not) see much of the play from where they w	vere sat.	
3.	3. 'He didn't turn round when I called him'. 'He be deaf'.		
4.	4. Peter (not) (drive) that car. He doesn't have his driving lice	nce!	
5.	5. His car (steal). He can't find it.		
6.	6. Grannie (tell) me stories when I was a child.		
Mettez le verbe entre parenthèses à la forme adéquate.			
7.	7. Suppose she (tell) you the truth, would you forgive her ?		
8.	8. I wish you (not make) such a fuss last night!		
9.	9. I'd rather you (hand over) it yesterday.		
10.	10. It's high time he (make) up his mind and took a decision.		
11.	11. I'd rather (stay) until she arrives.		
12.	12. I wish I (know) what the film was all about, I wouldn't have	bothered to come!	

3-a - Key Issues: THE ENVIRONMENT

§1 Global warming is now an acknowledged issue. Indeed 2007 saw the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Al Gore and the IPCC¹. This is evidence of the worldwide concern for climate change and its tragic fallout.

Obviously the <u>current rise in temperatures</u> cannot be explained by the natural climate cycles. The recent years have given the opportunity to witness many a tragedy: are the more frequent tropical storms and hurricanes (Katrina in New Orleans, 2005), the tsunamis (Thailand, 2004), the inextinguishable fires (Greece, California, 2007) effects of the global warming? Other consequences include the sea level rising, the shrinkage of glaciers, the disappearance of endangered species. Soon, the human population should have to face on the one hand heat waves and water shortages, and on the other hand major floods that will possibly foster millions of environmental refugees forced to leave their dwelling areas.

The main reason for these new developments has been identified as the increased man-produced carbon dioxide emissions, also known as the greenhouse effect. As a result, the rich countries' highly polluting industries such as the car industry, but also the fast-developing economies such as China or India, as well as much poorer communities such as those responsible for the deforestation of the Amazonian tropical forest, are urged to face their responsibilities.

\$2 The **Kyoto Protocol** is an international <u>treaty</u> on <u>climate change</u>, assigning mandatory emission limitations (or caps) for the reduction of <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions to the signatory nations. *Yet* the Kyoto Protocol has failed to gather the international community under the banner of gas emission reduction. The United States is known for its refusal to ratify the treaty and the rift between Europe and the US over how to **cut gas emissions** and **curb global warming** has been compounded.

Research and governments' effort is now focusing on the promotion of clean energy and **biofuels** so as to reduce the use of fossil-fuel emissions. Public opinion's demand for environmental friendly measures has allowed for the implementation of numerous initiatives for a "greener" urban environment: cycling in Paris, clean taxis in New York or a car tax in London.

However, a cleaner industry is not necessarily at odds with business concerns. For instance, eco-tourism has been hyped as well: ecology-minded resort now advertise solar power, organic gardens or reforestation programs to attract concerned customers. Green business, like ethical business (such as fair trade), are now ventures for new business opportunities. Individuals in the rich world have learned how to assess their ecological footprint i.e. the pollution and environmental waste they produce.

¹ Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur le réchauffement climatique (GIEC)