

# UNIT 6 La modalité / The environment

# 1 - Verbs and prepositions.

Complete the following sentences with the suitable preposition. Answers are provided in the Key at the end of the unit.

- steps.
- 2. Have you heard \_\_\_\_\_ the forthcoming storm ? If only you would listen \_\_\_\_\_ the news sometimes, you wouldn't be relying \_\_\_\_ me all the time!
- 3. 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.
- 5. 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. 6.
- I leave it \_\_\_\_ my superior to hire you. It's up \_\_\_\_ him. Leave \_\_\_\_ your résumé and he will call you. 7.
- 8. I expect all the students to participate \_\_\_\_\_ the debate.
- 9. "Did you know that Rover merged \_\_\_\_\_ BMW ?" "I'd say it was more a case of BMW taking \_\_\_\_ Rover".
- 10. 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, 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 preterit temporel.

> 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 preterit modal.

• 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]

#### Wish

- I wish I knew the truth. J'aimerais connaître la vérité ou Je regrette ne pas connaître la vérité. ▲ 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)

### I'd rather [UNIT 5]

- I'd rather come with you (même sujet : infinitif)
- I'd rather you came with me tomorrow (sujets différents : preterit modal) I'd rather you 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 => *might*, forme passée de *may* parle du futur ! I could do it if you asked me => je pourrais le faire si vous me le demandiez => valeur d'irréel.

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## Extrait gratuit de document, le document original comporte 5 pages.

Avant de traduire repérez le type de modalité qui se présente à vous. Il y en a deux :

#### 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. He \_\_\_\_\_ run hundreds of miles when he was young.
- 2. The audience \_\_\_\_\_ (not) see much of the play from where they were sat.
- 3. 'He didn't turn round when I called him'. 'He \_\_\_\_\_ be deaf'.
- 4. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ (not) ( drive) that car. He doesn't have his driving licence !
- 5. His car \_\_\_\_\_ (steal). He can't find it.
- 6. Grannie \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me stories when I was a child.

#### Mettez le verbe entre parenthèses à la forme adéquate.

- 7. Suppose she \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) you the truth, would you forgive her ?
- 8. I wish you \_\_\_\_\_ (not make) such a fuss last night !
- 9. I'd rather you \_\_\_\_\_ (hand over) it yesterday.
- 10. It's high time he \_\_\_\_\_ (make) up his mind and took a decision.
- 11. I'd rather \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) until she arrives.

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 say the <u>Nobel Peace Prize awarded to</u> **§2** The **Kyoto Protocol** is an international <u>treaty</u> on <u>climate change</u>, assigning mandatory emission Al Gore and the IPCC<sup>1</sup>. This is evidence of the worldwide limitations (or caps) for the reduction of greenhouse gas concern for climate change and its tragic fallout. emissions to the signatory nations. Yet the Kyoto Protocol has failed to gather the international community under the Obviously the current rise in temperatures cannot be banner of gas emission reduction. The United States is explained by the natural climate cycles. The recent years known for its refusal to ratify the treaty and the rift have given the opportunity to witness many a tragedy: are the more frequent tropical storms and hurricanes (Katrina between Europe and the US over how to cut gas in New Orleans, 2005), the tsunamis (Thailand, 2004), the emissions and curb global warming has been inextinguishable fires (Greece, California, 2007) effects of compounded. the global warming ? Other consequences include the Research and governments' effort is now focusing on the sea level rising, the shrinkage of glaciers, the promotion of clean energy and biofuels so as to reduce disappearance of endangered species. Soon, the human the use of fossil-fuel emissions. Public opinion's demand population should have to face on the one hand heat for environmental friendly measures has allowed for the waves and water shortages, and on the other hand major implementation of numerous initiatives for a "greener" floods that will possibly foster millions of environmental urban environment: cycling in Paris, clean taxis in New refugees forced to leave their dwelling areas. York or a car tax in London. The main reason for these new developments has been However, a cleaner industry is not necessarily at odds identified as the increased man-produced carbon with business concerns. For instance, eco-tourism has dioxide emissions, also known as the greenhouse effect. As a result, the rich countries' highly polluting been hyped as well: ecology-minded resort now advertise solar power, organic gardens or reforestation programs to industries such as the car industry, but also the fastattract concerned customers. Green business, like ethical business (such as fair trade), are now ventures developing economies such as China or India, as well as for new business opportunities. Individuals in the rich much poorer communities such as those responsible for the deforestation of the Amazonian tropical forest, are world have learned how to assess their ecological . urged to face their responsibilities. footprint i.e. the pollution and environmental waste they produce. ..... <sup>1</sup> Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur le réchauffement climatique (GIEC)