UNIT 5

L'expression de la condition / The economy

1 - Irregular Verbs.

Choose the correct verb and put it into the correct tense. Answers are provided in the Key at the end of the unit.

Melt ; raise ; read ; rise ; rid ; seek ; set ; shed ; shoot ; shrink ; shut ; run.

1. "Why do we say in English _____ snow but _____ metal ?" "I have no idea".
2. By abolishing slavery, America _____ itself of one of the worst of all social injustices.
3. "What did you think of the book ?" "I _____ about half of it before giving up. It was too boring."
4. Until the 1970s oil crisis, living standards had _____ steadily since the war. Companies _____ salaries regularly.
5. The government _____ to avoid the crisis by amending the law. To no avail.
6. The health coverage is _____ to the minimum in the U.S.
7. General Motors has _____ another 500 jobs at its Detroit plant and _____ down another factory.
8. The student _____ out of time and couldn't complete his essay.
9. The last economic results _____ off the alarm for the government to _____ interest rates.
10. Over thirty students were _____ when a young man opened fire at the Virginia Tech University in 2007.

2 – Grammar : L'expression de la condition.

Dans les phrases dont la subordonnée commençant par *if* exprime une condition, la concordance des temps se fait comme en français.

☞ If he **comes** tomorrow, **we'll** go to the cinema. S'il vient demain, nous irons au cinéma.

☞ If he **were** here today, **we'd** go to the cinema. S'il était là aujourd'hui, nous irions au cinéma.
Ce preterit (modal) n'exprime pas un passé (comme l'indique la présence de 'today') mais marque un contraste avec la réalité.

💣 ***were* à toutes les personnes**. On retient par coeur « if I **were** rich » / « if he **were** here ».

☞ If he **had come** yesterday (irréel du passé qui a la même forme que le past perfect), we **would have gone** to the cinema. S'il était venu hier, nous serions allés au cinéma.

💣 On emploie parfois 'will' et 'would' après *if* lorsqu'ils expriment un consentement, une obstination. EX. If **you'll** excuse me, I'm afraid I have to go. Si vous voulez bien m'excuser, il faut malheureusement que je parte.

💣 **La forme « I'd rather » (= I would rather)**

☞ Quatre phrases types à retenir. Elles couvrent tous les types de figures dont vous aurez besoin.

Sens présent (Même sujet) :
I'd rather **do** it myself. Je préférerais le faire moi-même — I'd rather + Base Verbale (ou infinitif)

Sens passé (Même sujet)
I'd rather **have done** it myself. J'aurais préféré le faire moi-même. — I'd rather + infinitif passé

Sens présent (Sujets différents)
I'd rather **you came** tomorrow. Je préférerais que tu viennes demain. — I'd rather + sujet + verbe au prétérit modal

Sens passé (Sujets différents)
I'd rather you hadn't done it. J'aurais préféré que tu ne le fasses pas. — I'd rather + sujet+ verbe au past perfect

2.b – Exercises : Choisissez la réponse qui convient.

1. They wouldn't have done that if they _____ .
   a/ left earlier.
   b/ had left earlier.
   c/ would have left earlier.
   d/ would leave earlier.

2. We'll go to the cinema when they _____ .
   a/ came.
   b/ had come.
   c/ would come.
   d/ come.

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3. I _____ delighted if you had invited me.
   a/ would be
   b/ had been
   c/ would have been
   d/ was

4. Would you contribute to the church restoration fund if he _____ you ?
   a/ asked
   b/ had asked
   c/ would have asked
   d/ would ask

5. I'd rather you _____ this to anyone.
   a/ wouldn't mention
   b/ wouldn't have mentioned
   c/ didn't mention
   d/ will not mention

6. It was in the Netherlands that we _____ our holidays last August.
   a/ would spend
   b/ would have spent
   c/ spend
   d/ spent

7. He told me he _____ rather exhausted.
   a/ has been
   b/ was
   c/ is
   d/ will be

8. I think you had better _____ earlier so that you can go to class on time.
   a/ to start to get up
   b/ started getting up
   c/ start getting up
   d/ to get up

9. He jammed on the brakes as soon as he _____ the stationary lorry in the middle of the road.
   a/ sees
   b/ would see
   c/ saw
   d/ would have seen

10. He told me he thought she _____ him down.
   a/ let
   b/ lets
   c/ would let
   d/ will let

3-a - Key Issues : THE ECONOMY.

§1 Today **capitalism** has clearly emerged as the dominant economic system as its 20th Century challenger, **socialism**, has symbolically collapsed along with the Soviet Union. It seems that the new debate is centered around **globalization** and **liberalism**. The reference to "liberalism" should be taken carefully as it carries a different weight on the two sides of the Atlantic.
In Europe, the noun "liberalism" or the adjective "liberal" refer to the economic **trend** of the free market system. It might even be pejorative. To be branded a "liberal" can suggest a critical description of someone or of a policy of "laissez-faire": the market should regulate itself while the authorities should avoid any involvement; companies should be privileged. Such a concern might be at the roots of the U.S. decision not to ratify the Kyoto protocol whose ambitious aims would harm the American production and thus the economy. *Still*, the Laissez Faire policy approaches have largely been reconsidered, even in the United States, the champion of the free-market spirit and of individualism.
In English, this meaning is possible as well, though rare in its usage. In the above cases, one will refer to a "**free market** spirit" for instance. As for the word "liberal", it is used to refer to a moral point of view in a politician's platform or in a policy. In the U.S., "liberals" are politicians who defend abortion and gay rights for example and oppose the death penalty. There too, the word is possibly used in a pejorative manner by the Conservatives who fight those liberal views of society.
As for individualism, it is also viewed differently in Anglo-Saxon culture. Far from suggesting a sort of selfishness, it refers to the opportunities opened to every "individual" as opposed to the "classes" that rigged the Old European societies. **The self-made-man** is the archetype of the American man starting from scratch and becoming a millionaire. The strength of this myth lies in its continuity: today, newcomers may still identify with this American Dream.

§2 The world is now a global village. Most trade barriers have been abolished and the IT (Information Technologies) and the media constantly contribute to this feeling of a smaller world.
On the one hand, some fear this evolution. In particular, the **anti-globalist** (or alterglobalist) movement is gaining momentum and has been gathering quite a lot of people and attention since the 1999 Seattle protest on the occasion of the WTO meeting (World Trade Organization). Globalization is viewed as a threat to the world's diversity, drowning out local economies, traditions and languages and re-casting the whole world in the mould of the capitalist North and West.
On the other hand, others *contend*, globalization may help make people more aware of global issues such as **deforestation** and **global warming** and alert them to the shared merits of **sustainable development**. *For instance*, **fair trade** has reconciled the needs of developing economies and the greed of profitable businesses. *Indeed*, fair trade products respect the local producers and nevertheless offer important margins that rich consumers seem ready to pay for.
All in all, economic globalization may enhance the power of big corporations but the cultural and information globalization also creates new ways for individuals to act together and challenge governments.

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