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.

1. The exercise consists ____ summing up and commenting on the text. The exercise thus consists ____ two 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.
4. 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.
6. Please do not insist ____ my participation. I have no intention of getting involved ____ the dispute.
7. I leave it ____ my superior to hire you. It's up ____ him. Leave ____ your résumé and he will call you.
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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💣 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 saw the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Al Gore and the IPCC[1]. This *is evidence of* the worldwide concern for **climate change** and its tragic fallout.
Obviously the current rise in temperatures 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 treaty on climate change, assigning mandatory emission limitations (or caps) for the reduction of greenhouse gas 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)

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