Notes From the Module

1.2 Grammar focus: Modals and infinitives for giving advice

Look at the following sentences taken from the listening talk, and in pairs, tell each other the purpose of the sentences.

a. Try to prepare yourself in advance.

b. Sit near the front of the room.

c. You should be able to work out the important themes of the lecture.

d. You should not try to write down every word that the lecturer says.

Note that each of the sentences advises you on how best you can take lecture notes. They do this with the use of infinitives (**Try**, **Si**t) and **should** (**should not**). Two other ways of giving advice include the use of **ought to** and **had better**.

Example: You ought to work very hard.

You had better work very hard.

Note: **Should** and **ought to** express similar meaning**. Had better** is sometimes used when we want to make the advice stronger to indicate that the advice we give is really important.

Activity 1.2.1: Sentence completion

Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct word or phrase from the alternatives given.

1. I need a quiet place to study. Where_____ (I should/ ought to I/ should I) go?

2. The airline allows only two pieces of luggage. You _____ (had better not/ better not/had not better) pack too much or you will have to take some of it out at the airport.

3. A: I think that the grade my teacher gave me on my test is wrong.

B: Really? You _____ (ought talk/should to talk/ought to talk) to her after class today.

4. It is raining and I don‘t want to get my dress wet. I (had better not bring/had better to bring/had better bring) an umbrella.

5. A: I‘m very hot.

B: You _____ (should take off/ought take off/better had) your coat. 11

6. I did not understand much in the last lecture. I ____ (ought read/had better read/had read better) more on the topic.

Activity 1.2.2: Completing short dialogues

In pairs, take turns and give advice to each other using the cues given below. Use the three ways of giving advice you practiced above. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. Aman: I want to speak English more fluently.

Muna: You should practice speaking every day.

2. Aman: I‘m adding weight recently.

Muna: _____.

3. Aman: My parents send me money but I‘m always broke.

Muna: _____.

4. Aman: I‘m not feeling well.

Muna: _____.
5. Aman: I can‘t study in the dorm. The other students talk too much.

Muna: _____.
6. Aman: I want to join a good department next year.

Muna: _____.
7. Aman: I find it difficult to get up early in the morning.

Muna: _____.
8. Aman: I spend a lot of time watching television every day.

Muna: _____.
9. Aman: I‘m feeling bored this afternoon.

Muna: _____.
10. Aman: I keep losing my mobile phones. I lost two mobile phones last month alone.

Muna: _____.

1.4 Grammar focus: Present perfect tense

The following two examples are taken from the reading text above. Examine the sentences and say what kinds of action they express.

a. Over the years authors **have identified** the issues relevant to a particular area of study.

b. The reading skills that you **have already developed** can be put to good use in academic study.

You must have noticed in the examples that the verbs in bold type are in the **present perfect tense**. You also note that the verbs express actions that happened at an unspecified time before the present. Look at some more examples of the uses of the present perfect tense:

- I have lost my keys. I can‘t open the door.

(finished action that has an influence on the present)

- Classes have already started. (action that is going on)
- Ujulu has cooked dinner. (action that stopped recently)
- I have never been to Moyale. (action that has taken place once, never or several times before the moment of speaking.

Activity 1.4.1: Discussion

In groups of three, tell each other what we have done so far in this unit.

Example: We **have listened** to a talk on note taking in lectures.

(Each group member should be able to say at least two things that you have done. Then, one of you will record the sentences and report to the class.)

The present perfect tense action can be understood more easily in contrast with an action expressed in the simple past. Look at the following examples of the use of the two tenses:

- A: I **have read** this novel before.

B: Have you? When **did** you **read** it?

A: About two years ago. 18

- A: They **have constructed** a new road in this area.

B: When **did** they **finish** the construction?

A: Last year.

Activity 1.4.2: Completing sentences

Complete the gaps using either the **present perfect** or **past simple** form of the verbs in the brackets. When you have finished, compare your answers with those of another student.

1. Yesterday we _____ (play) football after class.

2. The boys _____ (clean) the car. It looks new again.

3. We _____ (just, read) the book. Now we can watch the film.

4. I first _____ (meet) my best friend three years ago.

5. None of my family members _____ (ever, visit) another country before.

6. She _____ (buy) her car when she was working in a business company.

7. Things _____ (change) a great deal at our company. When we first ____ (start) working here three years ago, the company _____ (have, only) six employees. Since then, we ____ (expand) to include more than 2000 full-time workers.

8. In the last hundred years, traveling _____ (become) much easier and more comfortable. In the 19th century, it _____ (take) two or three months to cross North America by covered wagon. The trip _____ (be) very rough and often dangerous. The situation _____ (change) a great deal over the last century. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.

Note:

1. The present perfect tense is formed using ***have' or has' plus the past participle of the verb***.

- ✓ We **have** all **submitted** our assignments to the instructor.
- ✓ She **has** not **written** the letter yet.

2. The action expressed in the present perfect tense does not include a definite past time because the interest is in the action, not in when the action took place.

- ✓ I have read this book last year.