# MODAL VERBS

# 1.-ABILITY

a.-present/future: CAN+base form / to be able to

I can /am able to drive a motorbike

b.-past: COULD+base form / WAS-WERE able to

I could/was able to play the clarinet with 8 (repeated action)

I was able top open the door after 2 hours (single action)

# 2.-POSSIBILITY

a.-present/future: CAN (90%), COULD(50%), MAY(50%), MIGHT(40%) +base form

I can pass all my exams in June

# REWRITING:

- -It is possible that I pass all my exams in June
- -It's likely that I pass all my exams /I am likely to pass my exams
- -Perhaps I pass all my exams

b.-past:COULD, MAY, MIGHT + have +past participle

He could have died in the accident

### REWRITING

- -It was possible that he died in the accident
- -Perhaps he died in the accident
- -It was likely that he died in the accident/ He was likely to have died in the accident

# 3.-PROBABILITY

a.-present /future : WILL (100%), SHOULD(90%), OUGHT TO(90%)+ BASE FORM

She will win , she has trained for hours

# REWRITING

It is probably that she wins

b.- past : SHOULD, OUGHT TO+ HAVE+ PAST PARTICIPLE (the expectations were not realised)

She should have won

#### REWRITING

She has probably won /perhaps she has won

# 4.-LOGICAL ASSUMPTIONS

a.-present/future: MUST(90%), CAN'T, COULDN'T +BASE FORM

She must be ill. She's never absent

He can't be 40, he doesn't have any gray hair

#### REWRITING

I'm sure she is ill . She is never absent

I'm sure he isn't 40

b.-past: MUST, CAN'T, COULDN'T+ HAVE +PAST PARTICIPLE

She must have been ill

He can't have been 40

#### REWRITING

I'm sure she was ill

I'm sure he wasn't 40

# 5.-PERMISSION

a.-present/future: CAN, CAN'T, COULD, MAY, MIGHT +BASE FORM

You can go out today. You've worked a lot

#### REWRITING

You are allowed to go out today

You have permission to go out

b.-past: COULD, COULDN'T +BASE FORM

You could go out yesterday

#### REWRITING

You were allowed/had permission to go out yesterday

# 6.-NECESSITY

# a.-present/future: MUST +BASE FORM / HAVE TO +BASE FORM / NEED + V-ING /NEED + TO + INF/DON'T HAVE TO+BASE FORM/ DON'T NEED TO+BASE FORM/NEEDN'T +BASE FORM

I must go on a diet ( (I say so) /I have to go on a diet ( the doctor says it)

You need going on a diet / You need to go on a diet

You don't have to/don't need to/ needn't go on a diet

#### REWRITING

It is necessary/it is not necessary for me to go on a diet

# b.-past: HAD TO+ BASE FROM/NEEDED+V-ING/NEEDED +TO+INF/DIDN'T HAVE TO+BASE FORM/ DIDN'T NEED TO+ BASE FORM/NEEDN'T+HAVE +PAST PART

I had to go on a diet / I needed going on a diet/ I needed to go on a diet/ I didn't need to go on a diet/ I needn't have gone on a diet

#### REWRITING

It wasn't necessary for me to go on a diet

#### 7.-ADVISE

# a.- present/future: SHOULD/OUGHT TO+ BASE FORM / SHALL I?(ASKING FOR ADVISE)

You should /ought to be more polite with your teachers

#### **REWRITING:**

You'd better be more polite with your teachers

I advise you to be more polite

It is advisable that you were more polite

If I were you, I'd be more polite

You are supposed to be more polite

# b. - past: SHOULD HAVE +PAST PART /OUGHT TO HAVE+PAST PART

I should have been more polite

# REWRITING

It would have been better if I had been more polite

It was advisable to be more polite

You were supposed to be more polite

#### 8.-OBLIGATION

# a.-present/future:MUST +BASE FORM,HAVE TO+BASE FORM,OUGHT TO+BASE FORM

I must(I say so) /have to(outside obligation) do more activities

# REWRITING

We are obliged to do more activities

It's urgent that we do more activities

We are supposed to do more activities

We are to do more activities

We are expected to do more activities

# b.-past: HAD TO+ BASE FORM

We had to do more activities

# REWRITING

We were obliged to do more activities

# 9.-REQUESTS

Present/future: CAN I ....? COULD I? MAY I? MIGHT I? WILL YOU ...?

Can I borrow your pen?

#### REWRITING

Would you mind if I borrow your pen?/Would you mind lending me your pen?

#### 10.-OFFERS:

Present/future CAN I? SHALL I?

Shall I help you?

#### **REWRITING:**

Would you like me to help you?

# 11.-SUGGESTIONS

a.-present/future: Shall we ....? Can I ....?

Shall we dance? /We can dance today

#### REWRITING

Let's dance/ How about dancing?/Why don't we dance?/What about dancing?/

b.-past : COULD HAVE +BASE FORM

We could have danced

#### REWRITING

It would have been a good idea if we had danced

#### 12.-PROHIBITIONS

a.- present: CAN'T+BASE FORM , MUSTN'T +BASE FORM , MAY NOT +BASE FORM

You can't smoke here

# **REWRITING:**

You are not allowed to smoke here

It's forbidden to smoke here

b.-past : COULDN'T+ BASE FORM

You couldn't smoke there

#### REWRITING

You weren't allowed to smoke there/ It was forbidden.....

# **ACTIVITIES**

Rewrite the following sentences

- 1.-Can I have the last cake, please?
- 2.-Let's go for a bike ride
- 3.-It would have been better if you had seen a doctor
- 4.-You are expected to be here on time
- 5.-I'm sure Tom is on holiday
- 6.- Would you mind moving your car please?
- 7.-Is it possible that he might be offered the job son  $\dot{c}$

- 8.- It wasn't necessary to get dressed up, so we didn't
- 9.-Driving without headlights is forbidden
- 10.-He'll probably win the race
- 11.-Perhaps they went on holiday
- 12.-It is necessary that we buy some groceries today
- 13.- You must post these letters at the end of the week
- 14.-We were to be at the airport at 8
- 15.-Would you like me to do your homework?
- 16.-I 'm sure she forgot our date
- 17.-I don't think she was studying
- 18.-How about going out today?
- 19.- He probably left early last night
- 20.-I'm sure Ann didn't crash your car
- 21.-Smoking in class wasn't allowed ten years ago
- 22.- I need to buy a Smart suit for the interview
- 23.-It wasn't necessary for you to be so rude
- 24.-He's likely to get the job
- 25.-It was unwise of him to believe the weather forecast