

## Teaching notes

This resource is designed to enable students to broaden their range of expression on the issue of **homelessness and poverty**, specifically in terms of suggesting **possible solutions**. The aim is to help students access the highest grades by introducing complex structures into their writing and speaking. This involves taking a structure they might know already and adding some alternatives to add variety:

1. **Si j'étais + conditional** and its alternative **à la place de + conditional**.
2. **Il faut + infinitive** and its more nuanced alternative **il faut que + subjunctive**.

The resource consists of grammar notes and exercises, including a translation task and a writing activity. It assumes that students will have a working knowledge of the conditional and imperfect tenses as only a brief recap is given in the notes here. The introduction to the subjunctive on p.4 is kept as simple as possible, without going into the various different uses or all the irregular verbs.

## Answers

### Ex. A

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1 = g | 2 = e | 3 = i | 4 = f | 5 = h | 6 = d | 7 = b | 8 = j | 9 = a | 10 = c |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|

### Ex. B

Possible matches are sentences 2+1, 3+7, 4+10, 6+5, 8+9. 2+7 as well as the example 4+9.

### Ex. D

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | One/we must help poor people.                             |
| 2  | The government must spend more money on public transport. |
| 3  | Poor people should work harder.                           |
| 4  | Foreigners should not receive state benefits.             |
| 5  | One/we must help vulnerable children.                     |
| 6  | The government must help vulnerable children.             |
| 7  | Individuals have to take responsibility for themselves.   |
| 8  | One/we should not give money to beggars.                  |
| 9  | One/we should give money to charities.                    |
| 10 | People should not forget the most vulnerable in society.  |

## Grammar notes 1

To suggest what you *would* do if you *could*, or if you *were* someone influential, use:

***Si j'étais + conditional*** = If I were + conditional

This structure is 'reversible' in French, as it is in English:

***Conditional + si j'étais = Conditional + if I were***

Examples:

***Si j'étais Premier ministre, je prêteraï plus d'attention au problème des SDF.***

If I were prime minister, I would pay more attention to the issue of homelessness.

***Je prêteraï plus d'attention au problème des SDF si j'étais Premier ministre.***

I would pay more attention to the issue of homelessness if I were prime minister.

The two tenses you need are the **imperfect** and the **conditional**. Note that these two tenses have the same endings (*-ais, -ais, -ait, -ions, -iez, -aient*), but not the same stems.

The conditional has the same stem as the simple future (e.g. the infinitive for -er and -ir verbs).

The imperfect is formed by dropping the *-ons* from the *nous* form of the present tense and adding these same endings to the stem. e.g. *Nous pouvons* > *pouv-* > *je pouvaï*.

***Si je pouvaï, j'aideraï dans un abri pour les SDF.***

If I could / were able to, I would help in a homeless shelter.

The negative works as it usually does, by putting '*ne ...pas*' around the first verb:

***Si je ne pouvaï pas aider dans un abri, je donneraï de l'argent.***

If I couldn't help in a shelter, I would give money.

There is also an alternative to this structure, so that you add more variety to your work:

***À la place de + conditional*** = In someone's place + conditional

***À la place du Premier ministre, je prêteraï plus d'attention au problème des SDF.***

In the Prime Minister's place, I would pay more attention to the homelessness issue.

Remember to change the *de* to *du, de, de la, des* as required!

**Exercises**

**Ex. A** Match the French phrases to the English by completing the answer grid below.

|       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1 = g | 2 = | 3 = | 4 = | 5 = | 6 = | 7 = | 8 = | 9 = | 10 = |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|

|    |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|
| 1  | J'aiderais dans un abri                   | a | There would be fewer problems like this |
| 2  | Si j'avais plus de temps                  | b | I would take part in demonstrations     |
| 3  | Si c'était une question importante        | c | I would tax multinationals              |
| 4  | Si j'étais Premier ministre               | d | In the mayor's place (if I were mayor)  |
| 5  | J'offrirais plus de transports publics    | e | If I had more time                      |
| 6  | À la place du maire                       | f | If I were Prime Minister                |
| 7  | Je participerais à des manifestations     | g | I would help in a shelter               |
| 8  | Si le monde était plus juste              | h | I would provide more public transport   |
| 9  | Il y aurait moins de problèmes de ce type | i | If it were an important issue           |
| 10 | Je taxerais les multinationales           | j | If the world were fairer                |

**Ex. B** Using the phrases 1-10 in the left-hand column of the grid above, find possible matches to form five logical sentences to write below. For example, 4+9 = *Si j'étais Premier ministre, il y aurait moins de problèmes de ce type.*

1. ....  
.....
2. ....  
.....
3. ....  
.....
4. ....  
.....
5. ....  
.....

## Grammar notes 2

To say what must be done, use:

***Il faut + infinitive*** = One/we must + infinitive

If you want to say who must do the action, use:

***Il faut que + subjunctive*** = Someone/something must

Examples:

***Il faut faire des efforts pour réduire l'inégalité dans la société.***

We must make an effort to reduce inequality in society.

***Il faut que le gouvernement fasse des efforts pour réduire l'inégalité dans la société.***

The government must make an effort to reduce inequality in society.

To use *il faut que + subjunctive* you will need to know how to form the subjunctive.

For regular verbs, take the *ils* form of the present tense of the verb, drop the *-ent* ending to form the stem, and add the subjunctive endings below.

e.g. *Ils prennent* > *prenn-* > *je prenne*

There are also irregular stems and the most useful one for this worksheet is: *faire* > *fass-*  
Other irregulars can be checked in a verb table (for example at the back of your textbook or dictionary) or online.

| Il faut ...       | ending       | parler   | choisir      | rendre   |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| ... que je        | <b>-e</b>    | parle    | choisisse    | rende    |
| ... que tu        | <b>-es</b>   | parles   | choisisses   | rendes   |
| ... qu'il/elle/on | <b>-e</b>    | parle    | choisisse    | rende    |
| ... que nous      | <b>-ions</b> | parlions | choisissions | rendions |
| ... que vous      | <b>-iez</b>  | parliez  | choisissiez  | rendiez  |
| ... qu'ils/elles  | <b>-ent</b>  | parlent  | choisissent  | rendent  |

**Ex. C** Tick the statements you agree with.

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1  | Il faut aider les gens pauvres.  |  |
| 2  | Il faut que le gouvernement dépense plus d'argent dans les transports publics. |  |
| 3  | Il faut que les pauvres travaillent plus dur.                                  |  |
| 4  | Il ne faut pas que les étrangers touchent des subventions de l'État.           |  |
| 5  | Il faut aider les enfants vulnérables.   |  |
| 6  | Il faut que le gouvernement aide les enfants vulnérables.                      |  |
| 7  | Il faut que l'individu se prenne en charge.                                    |  |
| 8  | Il ne faut pas donner de l'argent aux mendiants.                               |  |
| 9  | Il faut donner de l'argent aux œuvres caritatives.                             |  |
| 10 | Il ne faut pas que les gens oublient les plus vulnérables dans la société.     |  |

**Ex. D** Translate the statements from Ex. C into English.

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  |  |
| 2  |  |
| 3  |  |
| 4  |  |
| 5  |  |
| 6  |  |
| 7  |  |
| 8  |  |
| 9  |  |
| 10 |  |

**Ex. E** Writing activity

Adapt the ideas from the worksheets to write four ways in which you personally could take action to fight poverty and four more general solutions.

**What you could/should/would do**

Use: **Si j'étais / À la place de + conditional**

= If I were / in someone's place + conditional

**1** .....

.....

**2** .....

.....

**3** .....

.....

**4** .....

.....

**General solutions**

Use: **Il faut + infinitive** or **Il faut que + subjunctive**

= One/We must + infinitive or someone/something must

**5** .....

.....

**6** .....

.....

**7** .....

.....

**8** .....

.....