Module 2

- **EMPOWER YOUR ENGLISH SKILLS IN YOUR PROFESSION**

SUMMARY

Introduction

Sustainability in Architecture

Sustainability in architecture has become an urgent topic of discussion as the world faces environmental challenges that demand immediate attention. Architects **must prioritise** sustainable practices in building design, construction, and operation to reduce carbon footprints and conserve natural resources.

In this article, we will explore some of the recent trends in sustainable architecture while demonstrating how modal verbs—such as *must*, *should*, *could*, *may*, *might*, and *can*—play a crucial role in expressing necessity, possibility, and recommendation.

The Importance of Modal Verbs in Sustainability Communication

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs that convey different shades of meaning, especially regarding obligation, possibility, permission, or recommendation. When discussing sustainability, modal verbs allow architects and policymakers to emphasize the degree of action or inaction that should be taken.

For example, saying "Architects **must implement** energy-efficient designs" expresses a stronger, more obligatory stance than saying "**Architects could implement** energy-efficient designs," which only implies possibility or suggestion.

On the other hand, the modal verb **should** suggest a strong recommendation without the absolute necessity of must. It acknowledges the importance of the action while allowing room for adaptation based on specific project circumstances.

The modal verb **can** highlights potential or ability.

The modal verb **might** expresses something unlikely to happen while **may** is likely to happen.

1. Energy Efficiency: We Must Reduce Energy Consumption

One of the key goals of sustainable architecture is to design buildings that use as little energy as possible. **Buildings must incorporate** energy-efficient systems, such as solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, and HVAC systems that reduce reliance on fossil fuels. In the face of climate change, it is not merely an option; **we must act**.

Additionally, **architects should strive** to use natural ventilation, passive solar design, and high-performance insulation to reduce heating and cooling demands.

2. Circular Economy: Materials Should Be Recycled and Reused

Sustainable architecture **should also consider** the materials used in construction. Instead of relying on virgin materials, which contribute to environmental degradation, architects **should turn** to recycled or renewable materials. For example, materials like reclaimed wood, recycled steel, and eco-friendly concrete **can** significantly reduce the environmental impact of construction.

3. Renewable Energy: Buildings Can Be Self-Sustaining

Another important development in sustainable architecture is the rise of buildings that **can generate** their energy. These self-sustaining buildings incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar panels, wind turbines, or geothermal energy.

While this capability is available, many buildings **might** not yet be designed with renewable energy in mind. but leaves room for the fact that not all projects are currently embracing these technologies. Architects **may** still need to overcome challenges, such as budget constraints or regulatory hurdles, to fully integrate renewable energy systems into their designs.

4. Water Conservation: Architects Could Optimize Water Usage

Water conservation is another critical aspect of sustainable design. Architects **could** reduce water consumption by implementing greywater recycling systems, rainwater harvesting, and water-efficient fixtures. However, in areas experiencing severe water shortages, architects **must** prioritise water conservation techniques.

5. Urban Sustainability: Cities Might Become Greener

At a broader scale, urban planners **might** focus on developing sustainable cities that prioritise green spaces, public transportation, and eco-friendly infrastructure. However, as populations continue to grow and urbanization accelerates, we **must** accelerate these efforts.

UNIT ONE

Modal Verbs

MODAL	EXAMPLES	USES
CAN	He **can** find any street in London. You **can** take a taxi. **Can** you take me to Victoria Station?	*Ability* *Suggestion* *Request*
BE ABLE TO	He **is able to** find any street in London.	*Ability*
CAN'T	That story **can't** be true.	*Certainty that something is impossible*
COULD	I **could** play tennis when I was younger. **Could** you take me to Victoria Station? You **could** take a taxi.	*Ability* *Request* *Suggestion*
MAY	It **may** be quicker to travel by train. **May** I come in?	*Possibility* *Formal request/ Permission*
MIGHT	It **might** be quicker to travel by train.	*Possibility*
MUST	You **must** be back at 10 o'clock. Look at the snow. It **must** be cold outside.	*Obligation* *Certainty that something is true.*
HAVE TO	You **have to** be back at 10 o'clock.	*Obligation*
NEED TO	You **need to** study a lot.	*Obligation.*
NEEDN'T	You **needn't** have a university degree.	*Lack of obligation.*
MUSN'T	You **mustn't** drive without a license.	*Prohibition*
DON'T HAVE TO	You **don't have to** call a taxi.	*Lack of obligation*
SHOULD	You **should** drive more carefully.	*Opinion/Advice*
OUGHT TO	You **ought to** drive more carefully.	*Opinion/Advice*

Here is a summary of the main modal verbs we can use in English.

Modal Verb	Use	Example Sentence(s)
Can	Ability, permission, possibility	*The architect can design energy-efficient buildings.*
	Can I access the LEED certification resources?	
	A building's energy rating can improve with sustainable materials.	
Could	Ability, polite requests, possibility	*Older buildings could achieve higher energy efficiency with retrofits.*
	Could you review the BREEAM criteria with me?	
	The insulation could reduce heating costs significantly.	
May	Possibility, permission	*The project may qualify for a green building certification.*
	May I suggest using recycled materials?	
Might	Possibility	*The structure might need additional insulation to meet energy standards.*
Must	Obligation, necessity, strong belief	*The design must comply with LEED requirements.*
	This must be the most energy-efficient layout for the building.	
Shall	Suggest or ask for advice	*Shall we discuss the energy audit findings?*
Should	Give advice, express expectation, obligation	*You should consult a sustainability expert for the certification process.*
	The green roof should reduce heat absorption.	

Will	Future intention, willingness, certainty	*The contractor will source materials that meet BREEAM standards.*
	I will help you calculate the building's carbon footprint.	
Would	Polite requests, hypothetical situations, express a habit in the past	*Would you assist with the energy efficiency assessment?*
	The building would benefit from solar panels if the budget allowed.	
	In previous projects, we would implement green roofing.	
Ought to	Similar to 'should'	*You ought to review the building's energy performance annually.*
Had better	Give advice or recommend a preferred course of action, implying a negative consequence if advice isn't followed	*You had better verify the insulation meets certification standards before inspection.*

Common Modal Verb Mistakes in Architecture and Sustainability Contexts

1. **Incorrect Tense Formation**
   Many people mistakenly change the tense of modal verbs or add auxiliary verbs like *will* or *going to* for future forms. Remember, modal verbs don't change form for tense.

Incorrect: The building will can meet the LEED criteria.
Correct: The building will be able to meet the LEED criteria.

2. **Adding 's' for Third Person Singular**
   Unlike regular verbs, modal verbs in English do not require an 's' for the third person singular form.

Incorrect: She cans certify the building as sustainable.
Correct: She can certify the building as sustainable.

3. **Misuse of 'to' After Modal Verbs**
   A common mistake is adding *to* directly after a modal verb. The correct structure is: **modal verb + base form of the verb.**

Incorrect: We must to assess the building's energy usage.

Correct: We must assess the building's energy usage.

4. **Formation of Negatives**

   Some people incorrectly form negatives by using *do not* with a modal verb. Instead, add *not* directly after the modal verb.

Incorrect: They don't can use non-recyclable materials.

Correct: They cannot use non-recyclable materials.

5. **Incorrect Use of Modals for Ability**

   Avoid using another modal verb before *can*. Instead, use *be able to*, especially when talking about different tenses.

Incorrect: The team might can complete the energy audit by next week.

Correct: The team might be able to complete the energy audit by next week.

6. **Negatives and Opposites**

   It's important to understand the meanings of the negative forms or opposites of modal verbs. For example:

- have to suggests a requirement, while don't have to implies there is no obligation.
  Example: You have to complete the sustainability checklist before submitting the design.
  Example: You don't have to submit this report for LEED certification.
- must implies obligation, while mustn't suggests prohibition.
  Example: You must meet the BREEAM energy standards.
  Example: You mustn't use materials that don't meet sustainability criteria.

7. **Past Modals with "of" Instead of "Have"**

   Another common grammar mistake is using *of* instead of *have* with past modals.

Incorrect: The designer must of included recycled materials.

Correct: The designer must have included recycled materials.

8. **Can't vs Mustn't**

It's important to understand the difference between *can't* (impossibility) and *mustn't* (prohibition). These are often confused.

- Can't implies something is not possible.
  Example: You can't apply for LEED certification without an energy audit.
- Mustn't implies something is prohibited.
  Example: You mustn't use non-sustainable materials in this project.

EXERCISE 1

Sentence	**Matching Answer**
1. You ought	**A.** pursue certification in sustainable architecture.
2. You had	**B.** help you analyze the building's energy efficiency.
3. If you want, I will	**C.** once the inspection is complete.
4. Shall we go	**D.** the building plans to ensure compliance.
5. You must consult	**E.** over the sustainability criteria before the inspection?
6. There's a chance it might	**F.** energy-saving materials for the renovation.
7. The new architect can	**G.** be costly to retrofit the building with solar panels.
8. You should consider	**H.** design sustainable buildings effectively.
9. If I had more experience, I would	**I.** to complete the energy certification report by the deadline.
10. You may leave	**J.** better wear a hard hat on the construction site.

EXERCISE 2

For each statement, choose **TRUE** if you think it is correct and **FALSE** if you think there is a mistake.

1. I can't submit the certification documents without the energy audit.
   True **False**
2. You mustn't use non-sustainable materials for this project.
   True **False**
3. For LEED certification, you don't have to meet all prerequisites if you have enough points in other areas.
   True **False**
4. The contractor must to install energy-saving windows in the building.
   True **False**
5. I think we shouldn't ignore the building's impact on the local environment.
   True **False**
6. Professionals in sustainable architecture mustn't worry about building codes.
   True **False**
7. Does the project have to meet BREEAM standards to qualify?
   True **False**
8. Can we assess the building's energy efficiency now?
   True **False**
9. How many additional solar panels do we must install for certification?
   True **False**
10. We don't can submit the LEED application without the waste management plan.
    True **False**
11. You don't have to use traditional materials; sustainable alternatives are available.
    True **False**
12. For green certifications, you should aim to reduce energy consumption as much as possible.
    True **False**

13. You must review the energy performance data before making design changes.

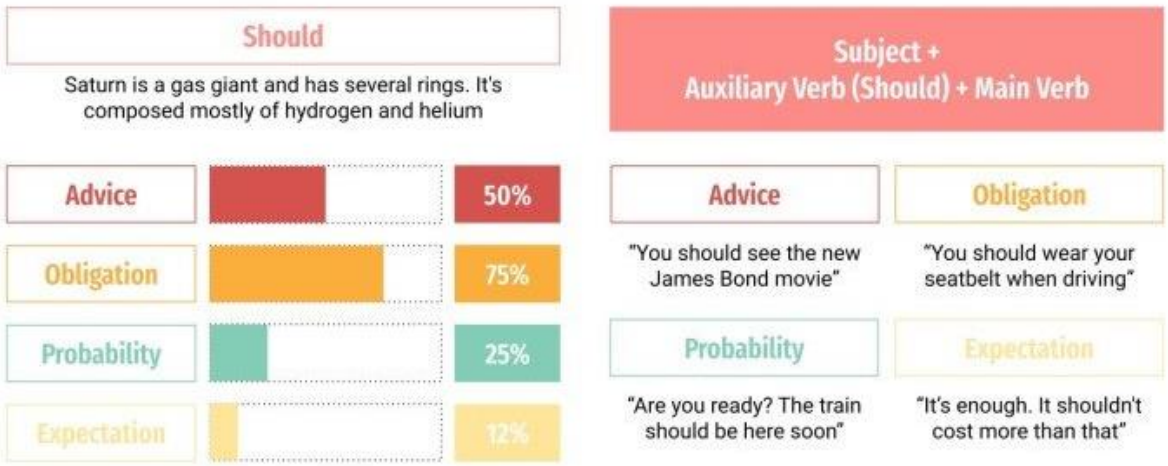
True **False**

14. They shouldn't ignore the building's indoor air quality standards.

True **False**

The structures – A matter of percentage

Shades of 'Should'



It is a common thing to find modal verbs in e-mails to be more polite. For instance, pose questions with modal verbs (such as *could*, *would*, *might*) or use the past tense:

- **Would** it be possible to set up a meeting next week?
- **Could** you please send me the report this week?
- I **was wondering** if the exam is ready for copying?

Modal verbs in context - An e-mail sample

Subject: EcoBuild Certification Progress Report for [XXX]

Dear EcoBuild Certification Team,

I am writing to report on the progress of [XXX] in meeting the requirements set forth for EcoBuild Certification. This report outlines the current design elements and recommendations we are implementing to ensure full compliance with the certification's sustainability guidelines.

1. Energy Efficiency

We have integrated several energy-efficient systems into the design to address EcoBuild's energy requirements:

- **Heating and Cooling**
- The building's HVAC systems are specified to be energy-efficient, aligning with the standards that **must** be met for certification. These systems **will** be regularly inspected to ensure long-term efficiency, reducing overall energy demand.
- **Lighting**

Natural lighting has been maximized in all areas where possible, with energy-efficient LED lighting included to reduce artificial light usage. These lighting systems **should** effectively minimize energy consumption while maintaining adequate illumination.

- **Renewable Energy Sources**

Solar panels have been proposed for rooftop installation to reduce the building's carbon footprint. This renewable source **may** contribute significantly to the building's energy needs, especially during peak daylight hours.

2. Water Conservation

Our design includes several water-saving measures, consistent with EcoBuild's water conservation requirements:

- **Low-Flow Fixtures**

We have specified low-flow faucets and toilets in all bathrooms and kitchen areas. These fixtures **must** meet the efficiency standards outlined by EcoBuild, ensuring minimized water usage.

- **Rainwater Collection System**

A rainwater collection system **can** be implemented for irrigation and other non-potable uses. This addition **should** further reduce the building's reliance on the municipal water supply.

3. Sustainable Materials

The project's material selection is aligned with EcoBuild's guidelines for sustainable sourcing:

- **Locally Sourced and Recycled Materials**

Whenever possible, materials are being sourced from local suppliers to decrease emissions from transportation. Recycled and reclaimed materials are prioritized to further limit the environmental impact.

- **Non-Toxic Finishes**

All finishes, paints, and coatings **must** be non-toxic to promote indoor air quality. We have specified products that meet EcoBuild's indoor environmental standards.

4. Maintenance and Long-Term Compliance

We are committed to maintaining the building's efficiency and sustainability over time. Regular inspections **will** be conducted to ensure continued compliance with EcoBuild's standards. Additionally, the building **may** undergo periodic reviews to ensure ongoing alignment with certification requirements.

Conclusion

We believe these measures position [XXX] for successful EcoBuild Certification. Should you have any further questions or require additional documentation, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for considering this report as part of our EcoBuild certification process. We look forward to achieving certification and contributing to a sustainable future.

Sincerely,
[XXX]

EXERCISE 3 – Choose the best option to complete the sentences.

Dear Cynthia,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share my plans to visit Australia, particularly as I am eager to explore opportunities related to architecture in the region. You have invited me on several occasions, and now that I have completed my studies, I finally can.

I intend to begin my trip in Sydney, where you are based. Do you know if it is cheaper to fly direct from Europe, or if I will 1. **be able to/can/could** find a more economical flight via another city? I can visit a travel agent to inquire, but I thought you 2. **might/should/must** have some valuable insights.

My boss has expressed concern about my traveling alone. We discussed this matter at length last night. She advised me that I 3. **mustn't/can't/won't** engage with strangers and that I 4. **will/would/have to** stay in reputable accommodations. Additionally, she mentioned that I 5. **might not/shouldn't/don't need to** use public transport due to safety concerns. I 6. **would/should/wouldn't** appreciate your thoughts on this advice, especially regarding the local architecture scene.

I am excited about the prospect of engaging in activities I have long desired, such as exploring sustainable architectural practices and visiting notable projects. I 7. **am not allowed to/can/ought to** go diving on the Great Barrier Reef, and I 8. **might/could/may** also have the chance to see unique Australian architecture, which I have always admired.

Furthermore, I would appreciate your guidance regarding any travel tips specific to professionals in our field. While I know English is widely spoken, I have questions about currency exchange. Do I 9. **have to/might/would** change my Euros before my departure, or 10. **will/must/can** I wait until I arrive?

With my trip only three weeks away, I have many questions and would greatly value your insights.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

Best regards,

Sophie Jones

UNIT TWO

Reading comprehension

CRA, in collaboration with Generali Real Estate and publisher Mondadori Group, transforms the offices within Oscar Niemeyer's Palazzo Mondadori in Italy into a Playground Workspace.

The project **may** propose a radical renovation of modern furniture, aiming to create a fully reconfigurable work environment. International design and innovation office CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati, in collaboration with the late Italo Rota (1953-2024) and Maestro Technologies, has developed a renovation project for Palazzo Mondadori in Milan, owned by Generali Real Estate. The building is considered one of Oscar Niemeyer's masterpieces, and it hosts the headquarters of the Mondadori Group, the leading Italian book publisher. The design by CRA **should** honour the original design while introducing innovative strategies for the future of the workplace. The first step of the project **must** deal with more than 20,000 square meters, with a wider renovation program of Niemeyer's main European landmark set to follow.

The project puts forward a radical approach to rethinking modern furniture. In collaboration with Maestro Technology, the latest startup born from the group, CRA has refurbished over 1300 units of the building's original modular furnishings. This classic post-war furniture by Swiss Manufacturer USM has been carefully dismantled and reassembled, integrating wood and creating additional reconfigurable modules. These interventions **may** include incorporating space for plants, and seamlessly weaving nature into the office environment. "To get us out of the comfort of our pyjama Zoom calls, office spaces **need** to become more like playgrounds," says Carlo Ratti, founding partner of CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and curator of the Biennale Architettura 2025. "Forget the old cubicles, which obstruct innovation and encounters, as shown in French director Jacques Tati's 'Playtime' movie. Exchanges in physical space **can** be crucial, and benefit from a constantly reconfigurable environment."

The space has been reimagined with desks that **should** encourage informal encounters across all five floors of the building. In addition, new transparent meeting rooms were

introduced to create a greater sense of continuity between spaces, allowing people to move while enjoying the surrounding natural environment. The furniture layout has been designed to maximize natural light, accentuating the Palace's beauty and cultivating a deeper harmony with the surrounding park. Palazzo Mondadori was conceived and constructed between 1968 and 1975, reflecting the peak of Niemeyer's challenging poetic. The main structure boasts a unique design—a suspended glass box supported by parabolic arches, creating the illusion of a space floating in the air, emerging from an artificial lake designed by landscape architect Pietro Porcinai. CRA was tasked with rethinking the office spaces within the building, which were cutting-edge for the 1970s, to bring them to the forefront and imbue them with innovation once again.

The Mondadori Group's offices **might** represent the latest addition to CRA's continuous research on the future design of workspaces, focusing on adapting spaces to facilitate meaningful interactions between people. This project **may** join notable examples such as the mixed-use CapitaSpring in Singapore, which won the "Best Tall Building, Asia, 2023" award from the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and was recognized as one of 2023's Buildings of the Year by ArchDaily for its vertical urbanism and integration of green spaces. Other pioneering projects in workspace innovation **might** include the Fondazione Agnelli in Turin, the headquarters of the Italian pharmaceutical company Zambon in Milan (developed in partnership with Amdl Circle by Michele De Lucchi), and the design of the ILOW complex for Bouygues at La Défense in Paris. CRA has a close connection to Oscar Niemeyer's important legacy. In 2020, the studio worked on the master plan of Brasilia in the Biotic project. This new district, spanning 1 million square meters, is devoted to technology and innovation, in continuity with the original Plano Piloto designed by Niemeyer and Lucio Costa.

EXERCISE 1 – Choose the correct option a,b,c or d.

1. What is the main idea of the renovation project?
   A) To create new furniture for offices.
   B) To change the building to help people work better together.
   C) To build a new office building.
   D) To keep everything in the building the same.
2. Who worked together on this project?
   A) Famous artists

B) Local construction workers
C) A design group and a technology company
D) People from different countries

3. What is special about the building being renovated?
   A) It was designed by a well-known architect.
   B) It is the office of a book publisher.
   C) It is very old and historic.
   D) It is a tall skyscraper.
4. What type of furniture is being used in the renovation?
   A) Old-fashioned furniture
   B) Custom-made furniture
   C) Modern and flexible furniture
   D) Outdoor furniture
5. According to the architect, how should office spaces feel?
   A) Very quiet and private
   B) Fun and friendly like a playground
   C) Similar to a library
   D) Just like regular classrooms
6. What new feature will be added to the office space?
   A) More private rooms
   B) Tables that are easy to move
   C) Glass meeting rooms for everyone to see
   D) Fewer windows
7. How will the new furniture design help the office?
   A) It will let in more sunlight and look nice.
   B) It will hide the beauty of the building.
   C) It will make the office feel crowded.
   D) It will use less space.
8. What is one project mentioned that is similar to this one?
   A) A school building in Italy
   B) A tall building in Singapore
   C) A new hotel in Paris

D) A library in London

9. What makes Palazzo Mondadori's design unique?
   A) It has colorful walls.
   B) It is very tall and thin.
   C) It has a garden on the roof.
   D) It looks like it is floating.
10. How did CRA work with Oscar Niemeyer's ideas?
   A) They built a new office for him.
   B) They redesigned a part of a city he planned.
   C) They copied his old buildings.
   D) They made furniture for his office.

Ireland could slash emissions by embracing circular economy - study

Country lagging behind in green construction when it could help meet housing demand, FII tells Oireachtas group

Kevin O'Sullivan - Wed Sept 25 2024 – THE IRISH TIMES

Widespread adoption of circular economy principles such as reuse and recycling could reduce Ireland's carbon emissions by up to 32 per cent, according to a new report.

The circularity gap report, commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, analyses the country's material consumption and carbon profile. It looks at the so-called bioeconomy, built environment and manufactured goods.

Irish people consume 22 tonnes of raw materials per person per year, surpassing both the European average of 17 tonnes per capita and the estimated sustainable level of 8 tonnes per capita, it finds.

Rapid economic growth led to a surge in material consumption in Ireland which has put increasing pressure on ecosystems within the country and abroad, "driving the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution".

It highlights the fact that plastic waste generation has more than doubled in just 10 years. "Moreover, Ireland is one of the few EU countries where territorial emissions have only recently started to decline relative to 1990 levels," it adds.

The report by Circle Economy in the Netherlands outlines pathways to reduce material consumption by 29 per cent and cut emissions by 32 per cent, while tripling the country's circularity rate from 2.7 to 8.4 per cent.

Circular strategies in construction – such as retrofitting, using bio-based materials and repurposing vacant spaces – could deliver reduce material usage by 12.6 per cent and cut emissions by 17.3 per cent, it finds.

"However, if business as usual continues, the sector's carbon footprint is expected to increase fivefold by 2030. This makes construction a priority area for targeted policies," it concludes.

The report recommends accelerating the shift to sustainable and organic farming practices, increasing forest cover and addressing labour shortages and skills gaps in the sectors. Adopting recommended measures "could reduce Ireland's environmental impacts while maintaining" high living standards, it says.

Meanwhile Ibec body Forest Industries Ireland (FII) has said the Government and construction sector should look to other countries who have already adopted sustainable building practices to ensure faster house construction to meet demand.

In a presentation, FII said despite growing awareness of climate change and need for sustainable practices, Ireland lags behind other European countries in adopting green construction methods. Timber frame houses can be built in a third of the

time of a masonry house and it is the majority residential building method across Europe, it added.

"Ireland has the resources and potential to embrace timber construction and set an example for green building practices. The conifer forests planted in the 1980s and 90s have reached maturity and provide a huge material resource," FII director Mark McAuley said. The Government should lead the way in sustainable construction by sponsoring demonstrator projects and launching green public procurement initiatives in the construction sector, he added, "especially in public building projects such as schools, community centres and social housing schemes".

EXERCISE 2 - Choose the correct option (A, B, C, or D) to fill in each gap in the text.

Ireland has the opportunity to significantly (1) _____ emissions by adopting a circular economy model. A recent study indicates that the country is currently (2) _____ in green construction, which is essential for addressing environmental challenges.

The research from the FII suggests that by shifting towards more sustainable practices, Ireland (3) _____ not only reduce its carbon footprint but also meet the increasing demand for housing. The Oireachtas group was informed that many (4) _____ methods are available to enhance energy efficiency in buildings.

To achieve these goals, Ireland (5) _____ invest in innovative technologies and materials that promote sustainability. This shift (6) _____ require collaboration between government bodies, private sectors, and communities.

The study emphasizes that if Ireland (7) _____ to act now, it risks falling further behind in the global transition to a green economy. Embracing the circular economy (8) _____ pave the way for a more sustainable future, benefiting both the environment and the economy.

Options:

1. A) increase B) slash C) maintain D) ignore
2. A) leading B) lagging C) advancing D) developing

3.	A) can	B) must	C) should	D) might
4.	A) traditional	B) old-fashioned	C) cheap	D) risky
5.	A) can	B) should	C) could	D) must
6.	A) might	B) won't	C) will	D) would
7.	A) chooses	B) refuses	C) decides	D) fails
8.	A) could	B) should	C) might	D) may

UNIT THREE

Listening Comprehension

Mastering the Art of Sustainable Architecture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PrGEPqFerY

GLOSSARY

Word Group	Words
Historic Old Town / Historical	**Historic Old Town**: Refers specifically to the old town of a city with significance and preserved architecture. **Historical**: Relates to anything connected to history; may not refer to a specific place.
Narrow / Thin / Slight	**Narrow**: Refers to limited width or extent. **Thin**: Refers to a small thickness or density. **Slight**: Suggests a small amount or degree, often used for differences or changes.
Suits / Suites	**Suits**: Often refers to a set of clothes or a legal term (lawsuits). **Suites**: Refers to a set of rooms designed for a specific purpose (e.g., hotel suites).
Canals / Channels	**Canals**: Man-made waterways for navigation or irrigation. **Channels**: Can refer to both natural and artificial waterways; also implies a pathway for communication or transmission.
Undertaking	A task or project, often implying effort or difficulty involved.
Debris	Refers to scattered pieces of waste or remains, especially after destruction.

Valuable / Worth	**Valuable**: Describes something with significant importance or monetary value. **Worth**: Refers to the value or significance of something; often used to discuss value in terms of money or effort.
To Run Something	To manage or operate an organization, service, or activity.
So Far	Refers to the extent up to the present; indicates progress or development until now.
It Doesn't Look Like Much	A phrase suggesting that something appears unimpressive or insignificant.
It's a Pity / Shame	**It's a Pity**: Expresses regret about a situation; more empathetic. **It's a Shame**: Similar to pity, but can also imply disappointment; slightly more casual.
We Love Working	Expresses enthusiasm for a task or job.
To Struggle	To find something difficult to do; implies effort against obstacles.
To Tackle	To confront or deal with a challenge or problem.
Waterways	Refers to bodies of water, especially those that are navigable.
Actually	Used to emphasize a fact, often in contrast to a common misconception; indicates a reality or truth.
Digging Up	To search for or uncover information or objects, often from the ground.

To Rent / To Lease	**To Rent**: To pay for temporary use of something. **To Lease**: A formal agreement to rent, often for a longer period with specific terms.
Rather Than	Used to indicate preference for one thing over another.
Elderly / Old	**Elderly**: Generally refers to older people, often with a connotation of respect. **Old**: More neutral; simply indicates age without connotations.
Nearby	Located close to something else; indicates proximity.
Buoyant Concrete Tubs / Tubes	**Buoyant Concrete Tubs**: Structures that float, used in construction. **Tubes**: Cylindrical structures that can also be buoyant but may imply different shapes or uses.
To Face / To Tackle	**To Face**: To confront a problem or situation. **To Tackle**: To address or deal with a challenge, often with a more proactive approach.
Shortage / Lack	**Shortage**: A situation where there is not enough of something. **Lack**: More general term indicating the absence or deficiency of something.
Studio Flat	A small apartment consisting of one room that serves as a living area, bedroom, and kitchen.
Rising / Arising	**Rising**: Increasing in level or amount; implies a gradual change over time. **Arising**: Coming into being or emerging; suggests an event or situation occurring.
Rejiggered	To rearrange or adjust something, often for a new purpose.
Although	A conjunction used to introduce a contrast or exception.
Else	Refers to something additional or different.

EXERCISE 1 - Listening Comprehension Quiz

Watch the video and determine whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F). Write T or F next to each statement.

1. The speaker mentions that Amsterdam has many new buildings.
2. Architect Marthijn Pool is transforming old bridge houses into hotel rooms.
3. The existing structures in Amsterdam are not environmentally friendly.
4. The company SWEETS hotel rents bridge houses from the city for 10 years.
5. Modular homes are designed to be demolished after use.
6. The floating neighborhood is located near the center of Amsterdam.
7. Rising sea levels are a concern for the Netherlands.
8. The speaker believes that flexibility in housing design is not important for the future.
9. The Netherlands is recognized for its innovative approach to housing solutions.
10. The speaker suggests that the projects visited follow a single blueprint for success.

Helsinki's new building held up by trees - BBC World Service

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3FQz-pUC_4

GLOSSARY

1. Venue

- Definition: A place where events or gatherings/big meetings are held/host.
- Example: "The new cultural venue features a modern design that can accommodate various performances and exhibitions."
- Synonyms: location, site, place, arena

2. Refurbishment

- Definition: The process of renovating or improving a building or structure.
- Example: "The refurbishment of the historic theater aimed to restore its original features while updating the seating and sound systems."
- Synonyms: renovation, restoration, revamping, upgrading

3. Scenery

- Definition: The natural features of a landscape or the setting in which a building is located.

- Example: "The design of the resort was influenced by the breathtaking scenery of the mountains and forests surrounding it."
- Synonyms: landscape, surroundings, environment, backdrop

4. Showy

- Definition: Designed to attract attention; ostentatious or elaborate.
- Example: "The showy facade of the building features intricate carvings and bright colors that stand out in the city."
- Synonyms: ostentatious, extravagant, flamboyant, striking

5. Bark

- Definition: The protective outer covering of the trunk, branches, and roots of trees.
- Example: "The architects decided to use untreated wood with its natural bark to emphasize sustainability in their design."
- Synonyms: rind, outer layer, skin (of a tree)

6. Whole

- Definition: Entire; complete.
- Example: "The whole structure was designed with sustainability in mind, from the materials used to the energy systems implemented."
- Synonyms: complete, entire, total, all

7. Made out of

- Definition: Constructed or composed of a specified material.
- Example: "The pavilion is made out of recycled steel and glass, showcasing the architects' commitment to sustainable practices."
- Synonyms: constructed from, built of, composed of

8. Kindergarten

- Definition: An educational environment or institution for young children, usually before they enter primary school.
- Example: "The new kindergarten features open spaces and natural light to create a welcoming and stimulating learning environment."
- Synonyms: preschool, nursery school, early childhood education center

9. Saw mill

- Definition: A facility where logs are cut into lumber using saws.
- Example: "The architect sourced local timber directly from the saw mill to ensure the materials were sustainably harvested."
- Synonyms: lumber mill, wood mill, timber yard

10. To take a step away

- Definition: To move away from a particular practice or approach, often to explore alternatives.
- Example: "The architect decided to take a step away from conventional designs and experiment with organic shapes."
- Synonyms: to diverge from, to move away from, to depart from

11. Apply to something

- Definition: To put into action or effect; to be relevant or suitable for a particular context.
- Example: "The principles of sustainable design apply to every stage of the building process, from planning to construction."
- Synonyms: relate to, pertain to, be relevant to, be applicable to

EXERCISE 1 – Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

I wanted to bring a _____ (1) to the city, and I think I've managed to do that. The congress venue is closed for _____ (2) for two years. Pikku Finlandia is replacing Finlandia Hall during its _____ (3). Jaakko was a student when he won

a competition to design a temporary _____ (4) to host Helsinki's biggest events. I was really _____ (5) of designing anything for this spot. It's our national _____ (6) here. They are a _____ (7) structure holding the (8)_____.

We went to the forest to choose (9)_____ trees which were then fell down and we chose out of those (10)_____ to be used here, the trees that have big showy branches. They were pressure washed to remove the _____ (11).

The whole building is _____ (12) and all the materials can be recycled. It's made out of _____ (13) that can be transported to the next place after it's not used here anymore. It will be changed to a school or a _____ (14).

If you take it to the (15)_____ and cut it, then the branches are a problem: they are the weakest point of the (16)_____ product.

You (17) _____ think that these trees are all the same.

After I graduated from high school, I worked as a real estate agent for _____ (18) years. After that, I applied to Aalto University to study architecture. I feel that I've found again a child in me to play around and imagine what the world could be. I feel free to _____ (19) things. Now I can say that they can come _____ (20).

UNIT FOUR

Use of English

CONFUSING WORDS

ACTUALLY - VIRTUALLY – CURRENTLY – EVENTUALLY – IN PRINCIPLES

In the English language, certain words can often lead to confusion due to their similar meanings or contexts. For instance, "actually" is commonly used to emphasize a truth that may be surprising, while "virtually" indicates something that is nearly or almost true, often used in discussions about digital realities or simulations. "Currently" refers to something happening at the present time, contrasting with "eventually," which suggests a future occurrence after some time has passed. Lastly, "in principle" is used to express a general agreement or understanding, although it may not yet be put into practice.

ATTUALMENTE - VIRTUALMENTE – CORRENTEMENTE – EVENTUALMENTE – IN PRINCIPIO

EFFETTIVAMENTE - PRATICAMENTE - ATTUALMENTE - INFINE - IN TEORIA

Here is a list of some of the most confusing words for Italians:

1. **Set/Fix**:
   Set refers to establishing or arranging something in a particular position or condition, while **fix** means to repair or correct something that is broken or not working properly.

   Example: The architect will **set** the parameters for the building's energy performance, while the contractor must **fix** any issues found during the inspection.

2. **Programme/Program**:
   Programme (British English) refers to a planned series of events or activities, whereas **program** (American English) can refer to the same concept or to a software application.

   Example: The green building **programme** includes workshops on sustainable design, while the new energy management **program** helps architects track efficiency.

3. **Mutual/Reciprocal**:
   Mutual indicates a shared relationship or feeling between two parties, while **reciprocal** emphasizes an exchange that occurs between them.

   Example: The architect and the client have a **mutual** interest in sustainable materials, leading to a **reciprocal** agreement to share research findings.

4. **Less/Fewer**:

Less is used with uncountable nouns to indicate a smaller quantity, while **fewer** is used with countable nouns.

Example: Using **fewer** materials can lead to **less** waste in the construction process.

5. **Inconvenient/Inconvenience**:
   Inconvenient describes something that causes difficulty or discomfort, while **inconvenience** is the noun form referring to the state of being inconvenient.

   Example: The **inconvenient** location of the construction site caused delays, leading to an **inconvenience** for the project schedule.

6. **Advice/Advise**:
   Advice is a noun that refers to recommendations or guidance, while **advise** is a verb meaning to offer suggestions or recommendations.

   Example: The architect sought **advice** on green certification from the experts who can **advise** on best practices.

7. **Delusional/Deluded**:
   Delusional describes a state of having false beliefs, while **deluded** refers to a person who has been misled or deceived.

   Example: The architect was **delusional** to think they could complete the project without proper permits, leading to a **deluded** understanding of the regulations.

8. **Illusion/Delusion**:
   Illusion refers to a deceptive appearance or a false idea, while **delusion** is a more entrenched false belief or opinion.

   Example: The bright lights in the building created an **illusion** of a larger space, while the **delusion** that energy-efficient materials are always the cheapest can mislead clients.

9. **Loose/Lose**:
   Loose means not tight or free from attachment, while **lose** is a verb that means to misplace something or not to win.

   Example: Ensure that all components are **loose** enough to allow for adjustments, or you might **lose** time during the installation process.

10. **Realize/Understand**:
    Realize means to become aware of something or to recognize it, while **understand** refers to grasping the meaning or significance of something.

    Example: The architect **realized** that incorporating renewable energy would reduce costs, but they need to **understand** how to implement these systems effectively.

EXERCISE 1 - Choose the correct word from the pair provided in parentheses to fill in the blanks. Write the correct word in the space provided.

1. The architect will _____ (set/fix) the guidelines for the sustainable design project during the initial meeting.
2. The university's green building _____ (programme/program) includes lectures and workshops on environmental design practices.
3. The architect and the contractor have a _____ (mutual/reciprocal) interest in reducing waste during construction, leading to a shared goal.
4. Using _____ (less/fewer) energy and materials can lead to a more sustainable building process with _____ (less/fewer) waste produced.
5. The location of the temporary site was _____ (inconvenient/inconvenience) for the workers, causing some delays in the project timeline.
6. The team sought _____ (advice/advise) from experienced professionals, who could _____ (advice/advise) them on best practices for achieving LEED certification.
7. The claim that they could finish the project in half the time seemed _____ (delusional/deluded) to many experienced architects, leading to a _____ (delusion/illusion) of efficiency.
8. The stunning views from the rooftop created an _____ (illusion/delusion) of a larger living space, but the actual area was quite limited, leading some to have a _____ (delusion/illusion) about the apartment's size.
9. Ensure that the joints in the structure are not too _____ (loose/lose) to prevent any safety issues; otherwise, you might _____ (loose/lose) critical components during the storm.
10. After months of research, the team finally _____ (realized/understood) that incorporating local materials would not only be cost-effective but also environmentally friendly. It was essential to _____ (realize/understand) how this choice impacts the community.

EXERCISE 2:

- **You need to = have to**
- **You can't = mustn't = aren't allowed to**
- **You can = are allowed to**
- **You don't have to = don't need to = there is no need to = it isn't necessary to**

Use each of the modal verbs above with at least one of each of the ideas below to make at least four new sentences.

1. Collect rainwater or used bathwater if you want to water your garden
2. Cover your roof with grass.
3. Give all new office buildings windows that can be opened
4. Install automatic lights that turn themselves off when nobody is in the room
5. Learn about environmental issues at school.
6. Wear a sweater in the office in the winter.
7. Use low energy light bulbs.
8. Stop using toilet paper and wash yourself instead.
9. Get money from the government for making your home more energy efficient (adding solar panels, double-glazed windows, insulation to stop heat going through walls, etc)
10. Cover your roof with grass.

EXERCISE 3 - Complete the sentences using the given prompts and correct modal verbs. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Perhaps we missed the correct design phase.

   MIGHT

   We _____ the correct design phase.

2. I'm afraid you can't use heavy machinery here.

   ALLOWED

   You _____ heavy machinery here.

3. They will expect you to bring your portfolio for the interview.

   HAVE

   You _____ your portfolio for the interview.

4. I'd suggest talking to a structural engineer if I were you.

   OUGHT

   You _____ a structural engineer.

5. He couldn't complete the project until he was more experienced.

   ABLE

   He _____ complete the project until he was more experienced.

6. We got the necessary permits for the construction without any delays.

   NEED

   We _____ get the necessary permits for the construction.

ANSWER KEYS

UNIT ONE

EXERCISE 1:

1I – 2J - 3B – 4E – 5D – 6G – 7H – 8F – 9A– 10C

EXERCISE 2:

1) **True**
2) **True**
3) **False** (For LEED certification, you must meet all prerequisites to qualify, regardless of points in other areas.)
4) **False** ("Must" should not be followed by "to": Correct form is "must install.")
5) **True**
6) **False** (Professionals must consider building codes, especially in sustainable architecture.)
7) **True**
8) **True**
9) **False** ("Must" should not be preceded by "do": Correct form is "do we have to install.")
10) **False** ("Don't can" is incorrect: Correct form is "We cannot submit.")
11) **True**
12) **True**
13) **True**
14) **True**

EXERCISE 3:

can, might, mustn't, have to, shouldn't, would, am not allowed to, might, have to, can

UNIT TWO

EXERCISE 1:

1. B)
2. D)
3. A)
4. C)
5. B)
6. C)
7. A)
8. B)
9. D)
10. B)

EXERCISE 2:

1. **B)** slash
2. **B)** lagging
3. **A)** can
4. **A)** traditional
5. **D)** must
6. **C)** will
7. **D)** fails
8. **A)** could

UNIT THREE

EXERCISE 1:

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F
6. T
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. F

EXERCISE 2:

1. forest
2. refurbishment
3. renovation
4. pavilion
5. afraid
6. scenery
7. load-bearing
8. beams
9. 120/one hundred and twenty
10. 95
11. bark
12. reusable
13. modules
14. kindergarten
15. saw mill
16. timber
17. might
18. 10/ten
19. imagine
20. true

UNIT FOUR

EXERCISE 1:

1. set
2. programme

3. mutual
4. less / fewer
5. inconvenient
6. advice / advise
7. delusional / deluded
8. illusion / delusion
9. loose / lose
10. realized / understand

EXERCISE 3:

1. might have missed
2. are not allowed to use
3. have to bring
4. ought to talk to
5. wasn't able to
6. didn't need to get

FINAL TEST

DOMANDE PER CREAZIONE QUIZ SEMINARIO ON DEMAND

Inserire 12 domande relative al seminario e indicare la risposta corretta

	Domanda	Vero	Falso
1	MUST and SHOULD have the same meaning		**X**
2	COULD is both a past form and a conditional	**X**	
3	Modal verbs have no "s" in the third person and no auxiliary verb for negative and interrogative forms	**X**	
4	MAY is never used to ask for permission in a formal way		**X**
5	NEED is a semi-modal verb because in some ways it is like a modal verb and in other ways like a main verb.	**X**	
6	Buildings must incorporate energy-efficient systems, such as solar panels, and energy-efficient lighting systems	**X**	
7	Architects should turn to recycled or renewable materials.	**X**	
8	The design by CRA should honour the original design of the Palazzo Mondadori in Milan.	**X**	
9	"Office spaces **must not** become more like playgrounds," says Carlo Ratti		**X**
10	New transparent meeting rooms were introduced to create a greater sense of continuity between spaces	**X**	
11	Palazzo Mondadori was built between 1968 and 1975	**X**	
12	Cra's main focus is on adapting spaces to prevent people from interacting.		X

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