

9.2 IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS

- 1 Look at these pairs of sentences. In each case, decide which is the more frequent use in English of the word in **bold**.

- a It is **probable** that she will arrive tomorrow.
- b Her story doesn't sound very **probable**.
- c It is **necessary** that I speak to him immediately.
- d We will make the **necessary** arrangements for you.

Expressions that begin: *It is possible / probable / mandatory / necessary*, etc. are normally avoided in everyday spoken English as they are rather formal and indirect. Instead, we make the sentence personal and use an adverb or a modal verb. For example:

*She will **probably** arrive tomorrow.*
*I **need** to speak to him immediately.*

- 2 Rewrite these sentences. Wherever possible, use a modal verb (*can, may, must, have to, should*) in the affirmative or negative form, or an adverb.

- 1 It is possible that we have made a mistake.
*We **may have made** a mistake.*

- 2 It is forbidden to take photographs.

You _____

- 3 It is mandatory to sign the register.

You _____

- 4 It is necessary to make another appointment.

You _____

- 5 It would be useful to check the translation again.

We _____

- 6 It is impossible that they are here already.

They _____

- 7 It is possible that I will be sent to Paris.

I _____

- 8 It is unlikely that she will arrive before 9.00.

She _____

- 3 Rewrite these sentences in a more direct form.

- 1 It is regretted that late applications cannot be accepted.

- 2 It is possible that salaries may increase.

- 3 It is important to clean the samples.

- 4 It is easy to do these tests.
