

Modals of obligation/recommendation

Match sentences 1 – 7 with their meanings a-g

1. You **mustn't** copy material from the web. a. It's not necessary/obligatory.
2. You **have to** have a password to access the system. b. DO this. I think it is very important.
3. You **shouldn't** spend too much time on the computer. c. It's not allowed. Don't do it.
4. I **had to** install a new anti-virus program yesterday. d. An obligation or necessity in the past.
5. You **should** use a good chair when using a computer. e. Not a good idea. I don't recommend it.
6. You **must** be careful when opening email attachments. f. It's a good idea. I recommend it.
7. You **don't have to** have special training to use Internet. g. It's the law.

Answer with *must*, *have to* or *should*

1. Which verb needs *do/did* to make questions and negatives? _____
2. Which verbs don't need *to*? _____
3. Which verb has present, past and future forms? _____
4. Write the three forms: _____

Complete the chart with *must/mustn't*, *have to/don't have to*, *should/shouldn't*.

Obligation /

Strong

recommendation (+)

Recommendation /

advice (+ and -)

No obligation / no

necessity

Not allowed/strong

recommendation (-)

• N.B. **mustn't / don't have to**: Remember that *mustn't* and *don't have to* are completely different.

You mustn't use a dictionary in the exam. = It's not allowed. Don't do it.

You don't have to use a dictionary for this exercise. = It's not necessary, the text is easy.

• When *mustn't*=not allowed, it is the same as *can't*.

You mustn't park here = you can't park here.

Modal verbs of obligation/necessity Jemma Prior

PRACTICE

Complete with the correct form of *must*, *have to* or *should*

1. You _____ tell anyone. It's a secret.
2. It's Sunday, so I _____ go to work.
3. That computer is perfect for your needs. I think you _____ buy it.
4. We _____ learn all about Java yesterday. It was very boring.
5. I _____ remember to give you that money I borrowed.
6. You _____ eat too much chocolate. It's not very good for you.
7. Peter bought dinner last night. I _____ pay for anything!
8. Our computer broke down over the weekend so we _____ call the technician yesterday.

Is it compulsory?

Complete the following sentences using *have to*, *don't have to* or *mustn't* concerning your country.

- You _____ a dog licence if you have a dog.
You _____ wear a uniform at school.
You _____ wear a seatbelt in the back of a car.
You _____ drive on the left.
You _____ be married to adopt children.
You _____ vote in a general election.
You _____ carry a form of personal identification.
You _____ pay for medical examinations.

Have to (objective obligation)

We often use **have to** to say that something is obligatory, for example:

- Children **have to** go to school.

Structure of Have to

Have to is often grouped with modal auxiliary verbs for convenience, but in fact it is **not** a modal verb. It is not even an auxiliary verb. In the **have to** structure, "have" is a **main verb**. The structure is:

subject + auxiliary verb + **have** + infinitive (with **to**)

Look at these examples in the simple tense:

| | subject | auxiliary verb | main verb <i>have</i> | infinitive (with <i>to</i>) | |
|---|---------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| + | She | | has | to work. | |
| - | I | do not | have | to see | the doctor. |
| ? | Did | you | have | to go | to school? |

Use of Have to

In general, **have to** expresses **impersonal** obligation. The subject of **have to** is obliged or forced to act by a separate, external power (for example, the Law or school rules). **Have to** is **objective**. Look at these examples:

- In France, you **have to** drive on the right.
- In England, most schoolchildren **have to** wear a uniform.
- John **has to** wear a tie at work.

In each of the above cases, the obligation is not the subject's opinion or idea. The obligation is imposed from outside.

We can use **have to** in **all tenses**, and also with modal auxiliaries. We conjugate it just like any other main verb. Here are some examples:

| | subject | auxiliary verb | main verb <i>have</i> | infinitive | |
|--------------------|---------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| past simple | I | | had | to work | yesterday. |
| present simple | I | | have | to work | today. |
| future simple | I | will | have | to work | tomorrow. |
| present continuous | She | is | having | to wait. | |
| present perfect | We | have | had | to change | the time. |
| modal (may) | They | may | have | to do | it again. |

Must (subjective obligation)

We often use **must** to say that something is essential or necessary, for example:

- I **must** go.

Structure of Must

Must is a modal auxiliary verb. It is followed by a main verb. The structure is:

subject + **must** + main verb

The main verb is the base verb (infinitive without "to").

Look at these examples:

| subject | auxiliary <i>must</i> | main verb | |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|
| I | must | go | home. |
| You | must | visit | us. |
| We | must | stop | now. |

Like all auxiliary verbs, **must** CANNOT be followed by **to**. So, we say:

- I **must go** now. (*not* *I **must to go** now.)

Use of Must

In general, **must** expresses **personal** obligation. **Must** expresses what the **speaker** thinks is necessary. **Must** is **subjective**. Look at these examples:

- I **must** stop smoking.
- You **must** visit us soon.
- He **must** work harder.

It is sometimes possible to use **must** for real obligation, for example a rule or a law. But generally we use **have to** for this.

In each of the above cases, the "obligation" is the opinion or idea of the person speaking. In fact, it is not a real obligation. It is not imposed from outside.

We can use **must** to talk about the **present** or the **future**. Look at these examples:

- I **must** go now. (present)
- I **must** call my mother tomorrow. (future)

We cannot use **must** to talk about the **past**. We use [have to](#) to talk about the past.

Must not, Mustn't (prohibition)

We use **must not** to say that something is not permitted or allowed, for example:

- Passengers **must not** talk to the driver.

Structure of Must not

Must is an **auxiliary verb**. It is followed by a **main verb**. The structure for **must not** is:

subject + **must not** + main verb

The main verb is the base verb (infinitive without "to").

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Must not is often contracted to **mustn't**.

Look at these examples:

| subject | auxiliary <i>must</i> + not | main verb | |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|
| I | mustn't | forget | my keys. |
| You | mustn't | disturb | him. |
| Students | must not | be | late. |

NB: like all auxiliary verbs, **must** CANNOT be followed by "to". So, we say:

- You **mustn't** arrive late. (*not* You mustn't to arrive late.)

Use of Must not

Must not expresses prohibition - something that is **not permitted, not allowed**. The prohibition can be subjective (the speaker's opinion) or objective (a real law or rule). Look at these examples:

- I **mustn't** eat so much sugar. (subjective)
- You **mustn't** watch so much television. (subjective)
- Students **must not** leave bicycles here. (objective)
- Policemen **must not** drink on duty. (objective)

We can use **must not** to talk about the **present** or the **future**:

- Visitors **must not** smoke. (present)
- I **mustn't** forget Tara's birthday. (future)

We cannot use **must not** to talk about the **past**. We use other structures to talk about the past, for example:

- We were not allowed to enter.
- I couldn't park outside the shop.