

# 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		<b>has</b>	<b>to work.</b>	
-	I	do not	<b>have</b>	<b>to see</b>	the doctor.
?	Did	you	<b>have</b>	<b>to go</b>	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		<b>had</b>	<b>to work</b>	yesterday.
present simple	I		<b>have</b>	<b>to work</b>	today.
future simple	I	will	<b>have</b>	<b>to work</b>	tomorrow.
present continuous	She	is	<b>having</b>	<b>to wait.</b>	
present perfect	We	have	<b>had</b>	<b>to change</b>	the time.

modal (may)	They	may	<b>have</b>	<b>to do</b>	it again.
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## [Must \(subjective obligation\)](#)

# 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	<b>must</b>	<b>go</b>	home.
You	<b>must</b>	<b>visit</b>	us.
We	<b>must</b>	<b>stop</b>	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.

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.

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.

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").

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

Look at these examples:

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

**NOW CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

# Have to, Must, Must not Quiz

- 1 Yesterday I  finish my Geography project.
- 2 She will  wait in line like everyone else.
- 3 All employees  on time for work.
- 4 We  forget to take the chicken out of the freezer.
- 5 If you are under 13 you  to get your parents' permission.
- 6 Your daughter may  try on a few different sizes.
- 7 The doctor  get here as soon as he can.
- 8 Do you  work next weekend?
- 9 Bicyclists  remember to signal when they turn.
- 10 Angela, you  leave your clothes all over the floor like this.