

Must/Have to, Mustn't/Don't have to

MUST

Usage

- Express personal obligation
- Express what the speaker thinks is necessary
- Express subjective obligation



Examples

- You **must** work hard.
- All passengers **must** wear seat belts.

HAVE TO

Usage

- Express impersonal obligation
- The subject is obliged or forced to act by a separate, external power (for example, the Law or school rules)
- Express objective obligation



Examples

- I **have to** leave early today.
- You will **have to** pay for the excess.

MUSTN'T

Usage

- It is prohibited; it is not allowed. It is important that you do NOT do something. The prohibition can be subjective (the speaker's opinion) or objective.



Examples

- Children **mustn't** talk to strangers.
- Cars **mustn't** park in front of the entrance.

DON'T HAVE TO

Usage

- There is no obligation; you are not required to do something, especially if you don't want to.



Examples

- You **don't have to** make excuses for her.
- You **don't have to** whisper, no one can hear us.

GRAMMAR DRILLS

A. Look at these signs carefully, then choose the correct answer.



1. Bathers **have to** / **mustn't** / **needn't** take a shower before entering the pool.
2. People with a contagious disease **must** / **needn't** / **mustn't** enter the pool.
3. Bathers **must** / **mustn't** jump or dive in the pool, they **must** / **mustn't** use the stairs.
4. Bathers **must** / **mustn't** / **needn't** shout or run around the pool.
5. Children **must** / **mustn't** / **needn't** use the pool without (sans) adult supervision.
6. Bathers **can** / **may** / **mustn't** pee in the pool. They **mustn't** / **can't** / **have to** use the restrooms / toilets.
7. Bathers **have to** / **can** / **may** use a swimming cap and goggles.

B. Choose the correct answer

MUST vs HAVE TO

An obligation from within (une obligation que l'on se fixe à soi-même): **MUST + bV**

An obligation from outside (une obligation extérieure), usually **a rule** (une règle / un règlement): **HAVE TO / HAS TO + bV**

1. I really **must** / **have to** remember to post this letter before five o'clock.
2. Ben's boss wants him to visit our firm (entreprise) in Japan; he really **must** / **has to** / **have to** go.
3. Air hostesses and stewarts **must** / **have to** wear a uniform.
4. If you want to visit this isolated village, you **must** / **have to** rent a car.
5. Before being allowed to enter the USA, visitors **must** / **have to** fill a form at the airport.
6. My house is in a mess; I **must** / **have to** find time to clean it up.
7. The doctor is very strict; Clare **must** / **have to** / **has to** reduce her consumption of soda.
8. I really want to lose weight, I **must** / **have to** reduce my consumption of sugar.

9. You **must** / **have to** visit us in London ! We'd love to show you around !
10. We **must** / **have to** try this new restaurant. Everyone says it's wonderful.

C. MUSTN'T vs NEEDN'T / DON'T HAVE TO

You mustn't + bV > It is prohibited / forbidden = **je ne dois pas / il ne faut pas**

You needn't / don't have to + bV > there is no obligation = **ne pas être obligé de**

A la 3eme personne du singulier **DO** devient **DOESN'T**

Ainsi on dira "**You don't have to pay**", mais "**she doesn't have to pay.**"

1. Don't tell her anything, that's our little secret. She **doesn't have to** / **don't have to** know it.
2. Don't worry, you **mustn't** / **needn't** do it. I'll do it later
3. You **mustn't** / **needn't** swim here ; there are sharks in the water.
4. You **don't have to** / **doesn't have to** / **mustn't** come if you don't want to.
5. The concert is free. You **mustn't** / **don't have to** pay.
6. It's a relaxing evening. You **mustn't** / **don't have to** dress up.
7. She now works from home, she **mustn't** / **doesn't have to** commute to work (faire le trajet jusqu'au travail).
8. Mary's children are teens. She **mustn't** / **needn't** hire a nanny to look after them when she goes out.
9. You **mustn't** / **needn't** drive me to the airport, I have called a taxi.
10. Because of the covid, you **mustn't** / **needn't** go out without your face mask.