

Modal verbs for rules

must and mustn't

- You **must** do something = it is necessary that you do it.

Example: Don't tell anybody what I said. You must keep it a secret.

(Have to is similar to must: I have to do something = it is necessary to do it, I am obliged to do it)

- You **mustn't** do something = don't do it

Example: You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone)

1) Complete the sentences using Must/have to or mustn't.

- A. The British Library: Coats and bags be left at the cloakroom or in a locker.
- B. Wemake a mess when we paint!
- C. Jim can't see very well. He wear glasses.
- D. You see the film. It's fantastic.
- E. Johnny, you be nice to your mum.
- F. Yourun across the road.
- G. Oh, no. It's Monday tomorrow. I go to school again.
- H. Weshout in class.
- I. English children stay at school till they are 16.
- J. OK. You can go to the party, but you be back before midnight.

2) Which goes with which? Find the sentences with a similar meaning.

- 1 You must be very quiet.
- 2 You must remember your password.
- 3 You must be brave.
- 4 You must be on time.
- 5 You must leave the furniture as it is.
- 6 You must go away.
- 7 You must forget what happened.

- a You mustn't stay here.
- b You mustn't be afraid.
- c You mustn't think about it.
- d You mustn't forget it.
- e You mustn't be late.
- f ~~You mustn't make any noise.~~
- g You mustn't move anything.

- 1 f
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Mustn't and don't have to are completely different:

- You **mustn't** do something = don't do it

*Example: You **must** keep this a secret. You **mustn't** tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone).*

- You **don't have to** do something = you don't need to do it (but you can if you want).

*Example: I **don't have to** be at the meeting, but I'm going anyway.*

3) Complete the sentences with **mustn't**, **don't have to** or **doesn't have to**.

Example: I don't want anyone to know about our plan. You **mustn't** tell anyone.

Richard **doesn't have to** wear a suit to work, but he usually does.

- A. There's a lift in the building, so we _____ climb the stairs.
B. I promised Kate I'd call her tomorrow. I _____ forget.
C. I'm not very busy. I have a few things to do, but I _____ do them now.
D. Sophie likes weekends because she _____ get up early.
E. You _____ be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.
F. You should keep trying to find a job. You _____ give up.
G. I _____ eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
H. We have plenty of time before our flight. We _____ check in yet.
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Can/ Can't

- We use **can** if something is allowed.

Example: You **can** buy snacks for the journey.

- We use **can't** if something is not allowed. **Can't** has similar meaning to **mustn't**.

Example: You **can't** feed the animals or You **mustn't** feed the animals.

4) Choose the correct option in these sentences.

- A. We **have to/don't have to/can't** buy a ticket when we arrive because we paid on the internet.
B. **Can/Must/Mustn't** I leave my bag here? B: No, you **have to/can/mustn't** keep it with you.
C. You **have to/don't have to/mustn't** take photos of the artworks, but you **have to/can/must** buy a postcard in the gift shop.
D. **Can't we/Can we/Do we have to** wear life jackets in the boat? B: Yes, it's obligatory.
E. You **must/don't have to/mustn't** make an appointment to see the nurse. Just knock on the door.
F. I **can't/must/mustn't** help you with your test. You **must/can/can't** do it by yourself.