

65 *must/mustn't*

I *mustn't* hurry.
I *must* get it right.

1 *must*

Must is a modal verb.

Modal verb form ► Unit 61.1

We use *must* when we think it is important to do something.

It is our opinion, not a rule or law:

*I **must** get it right.*

(= I think it is important that I get it right.)

*I **must** go now – I don't want to be late.*

(= I think it is important to be on time.)

We also use *must* in formal instructions, signs and notices. It means 'Do this!':

*Passengers **must** wear seat belts.*

(instruction on a plane)

*Candidates **must** answer six questions.*

(instructions on an exam paper)

NATURAL ENGLISH It is possible to ask questions with *must*, but it is more common to use *have to*:

***Must** you leave so soon? → Do you **have to** leave so soon?*

2 *must not (mustn't)*

We use *mustn't* when we think it is important NOT to do something:

*You **mustn't** tell anyone.* (= I think it is important to keep this secret.)

*Hurry up! We **mustn't** be late for Diana's party.* (= I think it is important that we aren't late.)

We use *must not* in instructions, signs and notices. It means 'Don't do this!':

*Visitors **must not** smoke in reception.*

*Students **must not** take food into the exam room.*



Don't use *to* after *must* or *mustn't*:

~~✗ I **must** to remember to phone the doctor.~~

✓ *I **must** remember to phone the doctor.*

3 *mustn't* or *don't have to*?

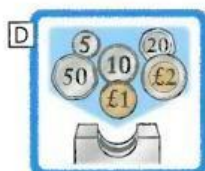
- *Mustn't* means it is important not to do something; it means 'Don't do this!':
*We **mustn't** leave the restaurant without paying – it's illegal.*

- *Don't have to* means something is not necessary (but you can do it if you want to):
*We **don't have to** pay for the meal now. We can pay when we leave the hotel.*

Practice

1 Match the signs with the sentences. Then complete each sentence with *must* or *must not*.

- 0 You *must not* make any fires. *E*
- 1 You put some coins in the meter.
- 2 You dive into the pool.
- 3 You wait behind this sign.
- 4 You walk on the left.
- 5 You bring your dog into the shop.



2 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 0 It's an important interview. You *don't have to* / *mustn't* be late.
- 1 The exam is finished. You *must* / *don't have to* stop writing now.
- 2 I've told you – you *must* / *mustn't* take sweets from people you don't know.
- 3 It's a very busy road so you *must* / *don't have to* cross carefully.
- 4 We *must* / *don't have to* go to the theatre – we can get the tickets on the Internet.
- 5 I've sent the company an email so you *mustn't* / *don't have to* phone them.
- 6 It's OK – we *must* / *don't have to* pay because I've got free tickets.
- 7 We *mustn't* / *don't have to* leave the party early – the taxi can come later.
- 8 You *mustn't* / *don't have to* be rude to Auntie Irene!

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with the correct forms of *must* or *have to*.

Use short forms.

ALICE I've never been to a TV quiz show before – it's really exciting!

TIM It's fun. I've been a few times.

ALICE What time does it start?

TIM The show starts at 8.00, but the audience (0) *has to* be there by 7.30.

ALICE Can we choose our seats or (1) we sit in specific seats?

TIM We can sit anywhere, but we (2) get there early to get good seats.

ALICE Can I take photos during the show?

TIM No, it says on the tickets that you (3) do that.

ALICE OK. What about clothes?

TIM Well, it's not formal so we (4) wear smart clothes, but we (5) wear anything with a name on it, you know, like Nike or Lacoste.

ALICE Oh, I see. By the way, how much are the tickets?

TIM Oh, we (6) pay. The tickets are all free.

4 Write about one thing that you have to do, don't have to do and mustn't do at school or work.

- 0 have to *I have to be at my desk by 9.00 a.m. every morning.*
- 1 have to
- 2 don't have to
- 3 mustn't