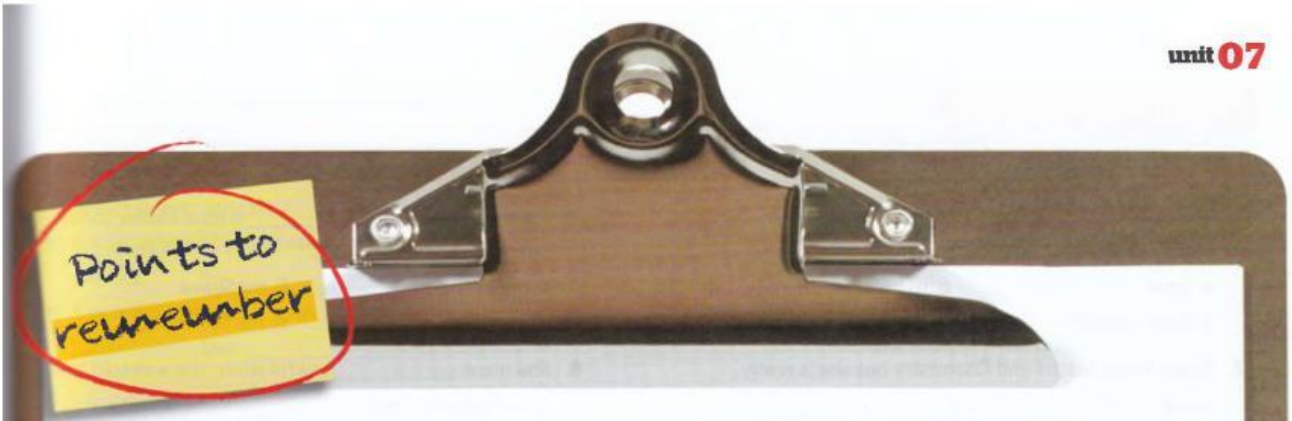


Points to remember

- I **must wash** my car. ✓
  I **have to** wash my car. ✓
  ~~I must to wash my car.~~
  You **should wash** your car. ✓
  You **ought to wash** your car. ✓
  ~~You should to wash your car.~~
  Peter **would wash** his car every Saturday. ✓
  Peter **used to wash** his car every Saturday. ✓
  ~~Peter would to wash his car every Saturday.~~
  (Modal verbs are followed by a bare infinitive (without 'to').)
  Note: *have to, ought to* and *used to.)*

- Jonathan **can** play tennis very well.
  Jonathan **could** play tennis when he was ten years old.
  If it doesn't rain, we'**ll be able to** play tennis.
  I **haven't been able to** contact Mike this week.
  *(**can** has no future or perfect tenses so **be able to** is used in its place.)*

- Bill **could** run quite fast when he was young.
  (general ability in the past)
  The injured athlete **was able to** finish the race.
  (ability in a particular situation in the past, especially a difficult one.)

- I **must** go to bed early tonight.
  I **have to** get up early every morning.
  I **had to** return some books to the library yesterday.
  I've never **had to** wait for more than ten minutes at the doctor's surgery.
  We'**ll have to** work hard on our project next week.
  *(**must** has no past, perfect or future tenses, so **have to** is used in its place.)*

- He **must be** home now. ✓
  He **must be watching** TV. ✓
  (Positive deductions about the present/future)
  He **must have arrived** early. ✓
  He **must have been working** hard lately. ✓
  (Positive deductions about the past)
  He **can't be** home now, he is usually at work at this time of the day. ✓
  He **can't be watching** TV. ✓
  ~~He **mustn't be** home now.~~
  (Negative deductions about the present / future)
  He **can't/couldn't have stolen** the money. ✓
  ~~He **mustn't have stolen** the money.~~
  (Negative deductions about the past)

- Ruth **needs to see** the doctor today. ✓
  ~~Ruth **need see** the doctor today.~~
  Does Ruth **need to see** the doctor today? ✓
  Need Ruth **see** the doctor today? ✓
  Ruth **doesn't need to see** the doctor today. ✓
  Ruth **needn't see** the doctor today. ✓
  *(**need** is used as a modal verb only in present tense questions and negations.)*

- They **didn't need to return** the books to the library today. *(=it wasn't necessary and we don't know if they did or not.)*
  They **needn't have returned** the books to the library today. *(=it wasn't necessary but they did so nonetheless.)*

- You **should apologise.** ✓
  You **ought to apologise.** ✓
  You **had better apologise.** ✓
  (Refer to the present or future)
  You **should have apologised.** ✓
  You **ought to have apologised.** ✓
  It would have been better if you had apologised. ✓
  ~~You **had better have apologised.**~~
  (Refer to the past)

Key Transformations

- Could I (possibly) turn the music down?
  Do you mind if I turn the music down?
  Would you mind if I turn/turned the music down?
  Would you mind my turning the music down?
  I wonder if I could turn the music down.

- Your room needs tidying.
  Your room needs to be tidied.
  You have/need to tidy your room.
  It is necessary for you to tidy your room.
  It is necessary that you tidy your room.

- It is not necessary for you to go shopping.
  There is no need for you to go shopping.
  You don't need/have to go shopping.
  You needn't go shopping.

- It was not necessary for you to go to the doctor.
  There was no need for you to go to the doctor.
  You needn't have gone to the doctor.

- My grandfather went fishing every morning.
  My grandfather used to go fishing every morning.
  My grandfather would go fishing every morning.

- The students did not manage to finish the project.
  The students were not able to finish the project.
  The students were unable to finish the project.
  The students did not succeed in finishing the project.

- (I think / Perhaps) you should take some time off work.
  (I think / Perhaps) you ought to take some time off work.
  You had better take some time off work.
  The best thing you could do is take some time off work.
  The best thing for you to do is take some time off work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS