# 7A GRAMMAR permission, obligation, and necessity

a Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the mistakes in the **bold** phrases.

1 These jeans are too tight. I **should have tried** them on before buying them. ✓
2 Emma's still very upset about her divorce, so you **hadn't better ask her** about it.
3 The invitation said we **didn't need to wear** formal clothes, so we wore jeans.
4 Employees **don't have to download** any software because it's against company rules.
5 We're **supposed to finish** early on Fridays, but we always end up staying late.
6 If you want to be sure of passing your exam, you really **ought study** more.
7 The boss is in a bad mood today so **you'd better watch out**.
8 You **don't need to show** your passport for domestic travel within the US.
9 We **ought to think** of that solution earlier. It's too late now.

b Circle the correct alternative in each pair. Check (✓) if both are possible.



**Customer** Hi, my laptop hasn't been working properly for a few days. Could you help?

**Technician** Yes, of course. First of all I'd [1] need to / need look at it. Have you brought it with you?

**C** Yes, here it is. It's been really slow since I opened up an email attachment. I know I [2] **must not** / **shouldn't** have done that, but I did and now I feel really stupid.

**T** Mm, we always tell people that you're 3 **not supposed** / **not allowed** to open up an attachment unless you know who the sender is, but people do. The other thing we always tell customers is that they [4] **must not** / **don't have to** forget to back up their files before they bring a laptop in, just in case we have to reinstall programs. You have backed yours up, haven't you?

**C** Oh yes, I've done that. But what do you think the problem is?

**T** I'm just having a look now, but you [5] **haven't got to** / **don't need to** worry. In fact, you 6 **needn't have brought** / **didn't need to bring** it in! The memory on the laptop is full and that's why it's been working so slowly. You [7] **should** / **ought** get an external hard drive and transfer your larger files to free up some memory. It'll work great!

**C** Which brand would you recommend?

**T** Well, I'm not really [8] **permitted** / **allowed** to recommend one brand over another, but have a look at our catalogue with the prices. That [9] **should** / **must** help you decide which one to get.

**C** That's great, thanks…

## ACTIVATION

c Write five rules that you think would make your English class go (even) better! Use the grammar from **b** above.

*I think it would be really good if we all handed in the homework when* ***we were supposed to****.*

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