

## Modals of obligation

### → **must and have to**

We use **must** when we make the rules:

*I must get a good night's sleep tonight.*

We use **have to** when we talk about other people's rules:

*You have to buy a ticket before you get on the train.*

There is no past or future form of **must**. When we talk about rules in the past or future, we always use the correct form of **have to**:

*When you go to India, you'll have to get a visa.*

*I had to wear a uniform at school.*



**Tip**

Don't use contractions with **have to**:

*I have to go, NOT I've to go.*



**Tip**

- Often there is not much difference in meaning between **must** or **have to**. **Have to** is much more common than **must**, especially in spoken English.
- have got to** is also used in spoken English and means the same as **have to**.
- Questions with **must** are very rare.

### → **mustn't, can't and don't have to**

We use **mustn't** or **can't** to say that something is not allowed.

We often use **mustn't** when we make the rules and **can't** to talk about other people's rules:

*I mustn't forget to email my mum.*

*We can't cross the road yet – the light's still red.*

For things which were not allowed in the past, use **couldn't**:

*I couldn't work in India because I only had a tourist visa.*

We use **don't have to** when there is no obligation. It means it's not necessary to do something:

*University students don't have to wear a uniform.*

*I didn't have to call a taxi. Robert drove me home.*

### → **should and ought to**

We use **should** or **ought to** to give advice and recommendations.

They have the same meaning, but **should** is much more common:

*We should see as much as possible. We shouldn't waste time.*

*We ought to see as much as possible. We ought not to waste time.*



## 1 GRAMMAR Modals of obligation

### a Underline the correct words to complete the conversation.

**PAUL** I've got my English exam tomorrow morning.

**MUM** Oh, really? So what time do you <sup>1</sup>should / have to / **must** be at school?

**PAUL** Well, the exam starts at 9 o'clock, so I <sup>2</sup>mustn't / don't have to / **can** be late.

**MUM** I think you <sup>3</sup>shouldn't / **mustn't** / ought to leave earlier than normal, in case there's a lot of traffic.

**PAUL** Yes, that's a good idea.

**MUM** And what are you going to do after the exam?

**PAUL** Well, I <sup>4</sup>mustn't / shouldn't / **don't have to** stay at school in the afternoon, so I <sup>5</sup>can / should / **must** come home for lunch.

**MUM** Fine, just two more things. It says on this information sheet that students <sup>6</sup>can / **must** / shouldn't show their identity cards to the examiner before the exam.

**PAUL** Don't worry. I always take my ID card with me to school.

**MUM** It also says you <sup>7</sup>don't have to / **must** / can't use a dictionary during the exam, so don't take one with you.

**PAUL** Yes, I know. I'll leave it at home.

**MUM** OK, good. By the way, it's 10 o'clock. You <sup>8</sup>shouldn't / have to / **must** go to bed late tonight.

**PAUL** No, you're right. I'll go up now.

**MUM** OK, good night. And good luck for tomorrow!