

GRAMMAR: MODALS

Modals of obligation, prohibition and necessity



INTRODUCTION:

must

Obligation: You **must** study tonight, we have an exam tomorrow.

mustn't

Prohibition: You **mustn't** smoke in public spaces. It's forbidden.

have to

Obligation: Doctors sometimes **have to** work on Sunday.

had to (past)

Obligation: She couldn't stay; she **had to** go home.

don't have to

No obligation: Teachers **don't have to** work on Sunday.

didn't have to (past)

No obligation: You **didn't have to** apologise; it wasn't necessary.

Complete the sentences with the words in the box:

mustn't - don't have to - must - has to - have to - didn't have to - had to

1. We _____ talk during the play.

5. Your video _____ be entertaining if you want it to go viral.

2. I _____ return the book to the library.

6. She _____ to go to the bank yesterday because she needed cash.

3. You _____ have to come camping with us, but I think you would enjoy it.

7. You _____ buy bread. There's enough at home.

4. We _____ get up at 5 a.m. yesterday to go on the ski trip.

8. We _____ go to class last week because we went on a class trip.

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Match the modal verb with its use:

1. You **mustn't** talk at the cinema.

A) It is a necessity

2. She **must/has to** do her homework.

B) It isn't obligatory

3. We **need to** buy milk.

C) It isn't necessary

4. You **don't need to** worry about Sally.
She's fine.

D) It is prohibited

5. They **don't have to** get up early at the weekend,

E) It is obligatory

Choose the correct modal of obligation, prohibition and necessity

1. School uniform is compulsory. We **have to/ don't have to** wear it.

5. We **had to/ must** stay in class yesterday for P.E. because it was raining.

2. I **Must/ Mustn't** go home. I can't stay out late.

6. I **didn't have to/ mustn't** go to school during the summer holidays.

3. We **don't have to/ didn't have to** stay at school for lunch. We can go home if we want.

7. I **must/ had to** be on time to class. Otherwise, I'll get penalised.

4. You **must/ mustn't** put cheese in Tania's sandwich. She doesn't like it.

8. Students **don't have to/ mustn't** speak when the teacher is speaking.

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Choose the correct phrases in the box to replace the underlined phrases:

You didn't have to - You don't have to - You had to - You have to -
You must - You mustn't

1. It is necessary to pay to use the train. _____
2. It wasn't compulsory to wear seat belts 50 years ago. _____
3. It's necessary to practice to be good at playing the piano. _____
4. It was compulsory to do the military service fourty years ago. _____
5. It's important not to use your mobile phone in class. _____
6. It isn't compulsory to wear a watch to school. _____

Complete the sentences with the correct modal of obligation, prohibition and necessity:

1. My brother _____ practice a lot, but now he's an excellent violin player.
2. In my school we _____ wear a uniform.
3. You _____ fasten your seatbelt during take off and landing.
4. Tony _____ forget his homework again, or he'll fail the subject.
5. We _____ wash the dishes, we have a dishwasher.
6. Students _____ copy in an exam.