

How do I use *must* and *have to*?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a You *mustn't* take lessons to learn to cook.
b You *don't have to* take lessons to learn to cook.
- 2 a I *must have wear* a suit and tie in my last job.
b I *had to wear* a suit and tie in my last job.

All modal verbs used to express certainty in the past take *have* + past participle:

You *must be* Ellen's sister – you look just like her. (present)

You *must have had* a good time last night – you look terrible! (past)

The negative form of this use of *must* is *can't do* or *can't have done*:

You *can't be* certain she's guilty – what proof do you have? (present)

The party *can't have been* any good – they were home early. (past)

When *must* is used to express obligation, the past form is *had to* + infinitive:

You *must see* a doctor – you're obviously not well. (present)

I *had to leave* work early yesterday – I was ill. (past)

The negative forms of this use of *must* are:

- *mustn't do*, for negative obligation, and *don't have to do*, for absence of obligation:
You *mustn't play* with matches – it's dangerous! (present)
You *don't have to go* to school today – it's a holiday. (present)
- *didn't have to do* for absence of obligation:
I *didn't have to wear* a suit last night – it was an informal dinner. (past)

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the sentences. Use a form of *must*, *have to* or *can't*. It may be necessary to change the form of the word in brackets.

- 1 That was an awful accident – you (be) very frightened.
- 2 We (argue) anymore – it's affecting the children.
- 3 The fridge is empty – they (eat) all the food!
- 4 I (go) out last night, though I'd rather have stayed at home.
- 5 You (be) serious! I don't believe you're saying that!
- 6 The wedding's tomorrow – you (be) feeling nervous.
- 7 You (buy) me a present, but how kind!
- 8 She (tell) him the truth or they wouldn't still be together.