

have to and must

A

I **have to** do something = it is necessary to do it, I am obliged to do it:

- ☐ You can't turn right here. You **have to turn** left.
- ☐ I **have to wear** glasses for reading.
- ☐ Robert can't come out with us this evening. He **has to work** late.
- ☐ Last week Tina broke her arm and **had to go** to hospital.
- ☐ I haven't **had to go** to the doctor for ages.

You **have to turn** left here.



We use **do/does/did** in questions and negative sentences (for the present and past simple):

- ☐ What **do I have to do** to get a new driving licence? (*not* What have I to do?)
- ☐ Karen **doesn't have to work** Saturdays. (*not* Karen hasn't to)
- ☐ 'Did you **have to wait** a long time for a bus?' 'No, only ten minutes.'

You can say **I'll have to ...**, **I'm going to have to ...**, **I might have to ...**, **I may have to ...**:

- ☐ They can't repair my computer, so **I'll have to buy** a new one. *or* ... **I'm going to have to buy** a new one.
- ☐ We **might have to change** our plans. *or* We **may have to change** ... (= it's possible that we will have to change them)

B

Must is similar to **have to**. You can say:

- ☐ It's later than I thought. I **must go**. *or* I **have to go**.

You can use **must** or **have to** when you give your own opinion (for example, to say what *you* think is necessary, or to recommend someone to do something):

- ☐ I haven't spoken to Sue for ages. I **must phone** her. / I **have to phone** her. (= I say this is necessary)
- ☐ Mark is a really nice person. You **must meet** him. / You **have to meet** him. (= I recommend this)

We use **have to** (*not usually must*) to say what someone is *obliged* to do. This is a *fact*, not the speaker's own opinion:

- ☐ I **have to work** from 8.30 to 5.30 every day. (a fact, not an opinion)
- ☐ Jane **has to travel** a lot for her work.

But we use **must** in written rules and instructions:

- ☐ Applications for the job **must be received** by 18 May.
- ☐ Seat belts **must be worn**.



We use **had to** (*not must*) to talk about the past:

- ☐ I went to the meeting yesterday, but I **had to** leave early. (*not* I must)

C

Mustn't and **don't have to** are completely different:

You **mustn't** do something = *don't* do it:

- ☐ You **must keep** this a secret. You **mustn't tell** anyone. (= don't tell anyone)
- ☐ I promised I would be on time. I **mustn't be** late. (= I must be on time)

You **don't have to** do something = you don't need to do it (but you can if you want):

- ☐ You **don't have to come** with me. I can go alone.
- ☐ I **don't have to be** at the meeting, but I'm going anyway.

D

You can use **have got to** instead of **have to**. You can say:

- ☐ I've **got to** work tomorrow. *or* I **have to** work tomorrow.
- ☐ When **has** Helen **got to** go? *or* When **does** Helen **have to** go?

31.1 Complete the sentences using have/has/had to Use the verbs in brackets.

- Robert can't come out with us this evening. He has to work late. (he / work)
- 'The bus was late this morning.' 'How long did you have to wait?' (you / wait)
- I don't have much time. _____ in ten minutes. (I / go)
- 'I'm afraid I can't stay long.' 'What time _____?' (you / go)
- Joe starts work at 5 am every day, which means _____ at four. (he / get up)
- We nearly missed the bus this morning. _____ to catch it. (we / run)
- Is Lisa usually free on Saturdays or _____? (she / work)
- There was nobody to help me. _____ everything by myself. (I / do)
- How old _____ to have a driving licence? (you / be)
- There was a lot of noise from the street. _____ the window. (we / close)
- Was the exhibition free, or _____ to go in? (you / pay)

31.2 Complete the sentences using have/has/had to + the verbs in the list. Some sentences are negative (I don't have to ... etc.):

ask decide drive get up go make make pay show stand

- I'm not working tomorrow, so I don't have to get up early.
- Steve didn't know how to change the settings on his phone. I had to show him.
- Excuse me a moment – I _____ a phone call. I won't be long.
- You can let me know later what you want to do. You _____ now.
- I couldn't find the street I wanted. I _____ somebody for directions.
- This car park is free. You _____.
- A man was slightly injured in the accident, but he _____ to hospital.
- Jane has a senior position in the company. She _____ important decisions.
- The train was very full and there were no seats free. We _____ all the way.
- When Patrick starts his new job next month, he _____ 50 miles to work every day.

31.3 In some of these sentences, must is wrong or unnatural. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- It's later than I thought. I must go. OK (I have to go is also correct)
- I must start work every day at 8.30. I have to start work
- I must remember to call Sarah tomorrow. _____
- I couldn't get a taxi last night. I must walk home. _____
- You must come and see us again soon. _____
- Tom isn't going out this evening. He must study for his exam. _____
- We can't go the usual way because the road is closed. We must go another way. _____
- Julia wears glasses. She must wear glasses since she was very young. _____

31.4 Complete the sentences with mustn't, don't have to or doesn't have to.

- I don't want anyone to know about our plan. You mustn't tell anyone.
- Richard doesn't have to wear a suit to work, but he usually does.
- There's a lift in the building, so we _____ climb the stairs.
- I promised Kate I'd call her tomorrow. I _____ forget.
- I'm not very busy. I have a few things to do, but I _____ do them now.
- Sophie likes weekends because she _____ get up early.
- You _____ be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.
- You should keep trying to find a job. You _____ give up.
- I _____ eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
- We have plenty of time before our flight. We _____ check in yet.