

Grammar | past obligation/permission

1. Look at the example sentences in the Grammar box and complete the gaps with the appropriate verbs which indicate past obligation or permission.

Grammar box

- ✓ They **had to** organise their weekly project.
- ✓ We **didn't have to** pay for it.
- ✓ They **were allowed to** visit their close friends.
- ✓ They **weren't allowed to** tell anyone the secret.
- ✓ They **couldn't** take their bags with them.
- ✓ They **could** stay up to watch the Moon landing on TV.

	Present	Past
Obligation	have to/must
No obligation	don't have to
Permission	be allowed to can
No permission	not be allowed to can't mustn't

Form
 have/had + verb with to
 allowed + verb with to
 could(n't) + verb without to



2. Complete the sentences with modal verbs from the Grammar box. More than one answer may be possible.

- ✓ Martin wasn't in the office, so I | | phone him on his mobile. (I was obliged to.)
- ✓ When I was at school, we | | run inside the building. (It was not permitted.)
- ✓ In my last job, we | | work from home for two days a week. (It was permitted.)
- ✓ Luckily, we had our passports with us, so we | | go back to the hotel. (It wasn't necessary.)
- ✓ We | | smoke in the restaurant, so we | | go outside. (It was not permitted/It was necessary.)
- ✓ I stayed up all night, because I | | finish my assignment by today. (It was necessary.)
- ✓ As a young child, I was | | travel alone on buses. (It was permitted.)
- ✓ The flight was delayed, but we | | wait very long before take-off. (It wasn't necessary.)

3. Correct the following sentences.

- ✓ I wasn't be allowed to stay out late.
| |.
- ✓ We could to eat chocolate all day long.

- ✓ Did you were allowed to buy new clothes? |.
- ✓ We didn't allowed to watch television. |.
- ✓ I couldn't to use the telephone because it was too expensive. |.
- ✓ We didn't had to help with the housework. |.
- ✓ We had to studying very hard. |.



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Source: 1) www.wikipedia.org 2) <https://www.english-4u.de/grammar1.htm>