

language focus

modals

The words **should**, **must** and **have to** are modals of obligation. We use them to **give advice** and **tell people what to do**.

We use **must** and **should** to give our own personal opinion. Must is stronger than should.

We use **have to** when there is a general rule or law and not our own personal opinion.

I have to wear my seat belt when I drive.
(A general rule or law.)

I don't have to go to school today.
(A general law or rule.)

You must go and see the doctor.
(A strong personal opinion.)

You mustn't arrive late.
(A strong personal opinion.)



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Must or have to?

Look at the following sentences and decide if the advice is based on personal opinion or a general law. Write **must** or **have to** in the space provided.

1 You drive on the right in Oman.

2 My hair is very dirty. I wash it.

3 They buy a permit for the Damaniyat islands.

4 I go shopping. There is no food in the house!

5 I think we protect our oceans.

6 We stay at work until 4 o'clock.

