

You have to take a shower before you enter the pool.

You mustn't drink in the pool. You can't eat either.

You should be careful at the side of the pool.



You must use a cap and goggles.

Do I have to use slippers?

Yes, you do!

Are we allowed to dive?

No, you aren't!

Presentation

Use modal verbs like *must*, *can* and *should* with the infinitive without *to*:

You **must** ~~to~~ use a cap and goggles.

Use the same form for all persons (*I, you, he, she, it, we they*):

He **must** use a cap and goggles.

Do not use the auxiliary verbs *do* and *does* in questions and negatives:

You ~~don't~~ **mustn't** drink or eat in the pool.

The verbs *have to* and *be allowed to* have similar meanings to modal verbs, but they change their form like non-modal verbs:

Do I have to wear slippers?

You **aren't** allowed to drive.

Obligation

Use *have to* and *must* to talk about obligation:

You **have to** / **must** take a shower before swimming.

Use *don't have to* to talk about no obligation:

You **don't have to** go swimming today.

We normally ask questions about obligation with *have to* (not *must*)

Do I have to use goggles?

Use *have to* to talk about obligation in the past (Note there is no past form of *must*):

When I was a child I **had to** go swimming twice a week.

TIP *must* and *have to* have very similar meanings. We often use *have to* when speaking, and in more formal writing we often use *must*. Note that *mustn't* and *don't have to* have different meanings:

You **mustn't** wear a cap. (= Do not do it!)

You **don't have to** wear a cap. (= it isn't necessary.)

Prohibition and permission

Use *mustn't* to talk about prohibition:

You **mustn't** drink or eat in the pool.

Use *can* and *allowed to* to talk about permission:

You **can** eat food in the café.

You're **allowed** to eat food in the café.

Use *can't* (*cannot*) and *not allowed to* to talk about not having permission:

You **can't** dive into the pool.

You're **not allowed** to dive into the pool.

Advice and recommendation

Use *should/shouldn't* to give advice and recommendations.

You **should** be careful at the side of the pool.

Exercises

1 Read the text about strange laws. Complete the text with the verbs.

can't must allowed mustn't had have



The world's strangest laws

- 1 You *can't* play golf on the streets of New York.
- 2 In Miami, you skateboard in a police station.
- 3 In the UK, you are not to die in the Houses of Parliament.
- 4 In Russia in the seventeenth century, you to pay tax to grow a beard.
- 5 In London, you don't to pay to take sheep across London Bridge.
- 6 In the US state of Kentucky, the law says everyone have a bath at least once a year.

2 Choose the correct option.

- 1 You **(must)** / *can* wear black trousers and a black shirt in this job. It's obligatory.
- 2 Do I *must* / *have to* drive on the left or the right?
- 3 I *mustn't* / *don't have to* go to school today because I don't have any lessons.
- 4 It's a rule that everyone *has to* / *is allowed to* take a shower before swimming.
- 5 That sign says 'no parking'. You *can't* / *don't have to* park here.
- 6 Junk food is bad for you. You *can* / *should* eat more vegetables.
- 7 Children *have to* / *aren't allowed to* enter the pool without an adult.
- 8 Students *shouldn't* / *mustn't* talk in the library. The rule says 'silence at all times'.

3 Rewrite the sentence with the same meaning, using the verb in bold.

- 1 We can stay up late tonight. **allowed**
We're allowed to stay up late tonight.
- 2 When I was a child, it was the rule to wear a school uniform. **had**
When I was a child, I a school uniform.
- 3 Be careful about driving so quickly on this road. **shouldn't**
You on this road.
- 4 I'm going to be late, so it isn't necessary to wait for me. **have**
I'm going to be late, so you for me.
- 5 Billy isn't allowed to watch this TV show. **can't**
Billy this TV show.
- 6 You are prohibited from walking on the grass. **mustn't**
You on the grass.