

Modals

Needn't

- We use **needn't** (=don't need to / don't have to) to say that something is **not necessary**.
- We use **mustn't** to say that something is **not allowed**.

Choose the correct alternative.

1. You **mustn't** / **needn't** smoke here. Smoking in enclosed public places is prohibited.
2. You **mustn't** / **needn't** come with us if you don't want to. You can stay here if you'd like.
3. You **mustn't** / **needn't** turn in the assignment today. You can take a few more days to work on it. The deadline is next Monday.
4. You **mustn't** / **needn't** turn in the assignment until you are instructed to do so.
5. You **mustn't** / **needn't** drink alcohol at the party. There will be soft drinks there too.
6. You **mustn't** / **needn't** drink alcohol when you drive.

Needn't have

- We use **didn't need to** (or **didn't have to**) (+ infinitive) to say that something **wasn't necessary** in the past and it **wasn't done**.
- We use **needn't have** (+past participle) to say that something that **wasn't necessary was done**.

Use the verbs in brackets in the correct form and "needn't have" or "didn't need to" to fill in the gaps.

1. When I got to work this morning I realised it was a Saturday! I felt so silly. I _____ (go) to the office.
2. My boss told me I could work from home yesterday so I _____ (go) to the office.
3. I _____ (buy) these tomatoes. I realised when I came from the market that I had plenty in the fridge. I'm afraid I have too many now and some will go to waste.
4. I always make a list before going to the supermarket so that we buy only what we need. My sister wanted to get some snacks for the party the other night and they were really expensive! Thankfully I knew we _____ (buy) any because we had plenty at home.
5. My husband called to let me know he had to work late last night. As I _____ (cook) dinner I ordered take out and watched my favourite sitcom instead.
6. It was almost 10 pm when my husband called to let me know he had to work late. I was just about to set the table. I _____ (cook) dinner for two. We ate the leftovers the following day.

Choose the correct alternative.

1. I **needn't take / needn't have taken** the umbrella this morning. It was sunny and hot all day. I looked like a fool carrying it everywhere I went.
2. I **didn't need to buy / needn't have bought** a new jacket. My boyfriend got me one for my birthday so I spent the money I had saved on a new pair of boots I also needed.
3. You **needn't go / needn't have gone** to the dry cleaner's. I've already picked up your suit.
4. I **didn't need to stay / needn't have stayed** until the meeting was over. My boss gave me permission to leave early.