

Modal verbs for rules

must and mustn't

- You **must** do something = it is necessary that you do it.

Example: Don't tell anybody what I said. You must keep it a secret.

(Have to is similar to must: I have to do something = it is necessary to do it, I am obliged to do it)

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

Example: You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone)

1) Complete the sentences using Must/have to or mustn't.

- The British Library: Coats and bags be left at the coakroom or in a locker.
- We make a mess when we paint!
- Jim can't see very well. He wear glasses.
- You see the film. It's fantastic.
- Johny, you be nice to your mum.
- You run across the road.
- Oh, no. It's Monday tomorrow. I go to school again.
- We shout in class.
- English children stay at school till they are 16.
- OK. You can go to the party, but you be back before midnight.

2) Which goes with which? Find the sentences with a similar meaning.

- 1 You must be very quiet.
- 2 You must remember your password.
- 3 You must be brave.
- 4 You must be on time.
- 5 You must leave the furniture as it is.
- 6 You must go away.
- 7 You must forget what happened.

- a You mustn't stay here.
- b You mustn't be afraid.
- c You mustn't think about it.
- d You mustn't forget it.
- e You mustn't be late.
- f You mustn't make any noise.
- g You mustn't move anything.

- 1 f
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

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

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

Example: You must keep this a secret. You mustn't tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone).

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

Example: I don't have to be at the meeting, but I'm going anyway.

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

Example: 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.

- A. There's a lift in the building, so we _____ climb the stairs.
- B. I promised Kate I'd call her tomorrow. I _____ forget.
- C. I'm not very busy. I have a few things to do, but I _____ do them now.
- D. Sophie likes weekends because she _____ get up early.
- E. You _____ be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.
- F. You should keep trying to find a job. You _____ give up.
- G. I _____ eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
- H. We have plenty of time before our flight. We _____ check in yet.

Can/ Can't

- We use **can** if something is allowed.

Example: *You can buy snacks for the journey.*

- We use **can't** if something is not allowed. **Can't** has similar meaning to **mustn't**.

Example: *You can't feed the animals or You mustn't feed the animals.*

4) Choose the correct option in these sentences.

- A. We **have to/don't have to/can't** buy a ticket when we arrive because we **paid** on the internet.
- B. **Can/Must/Mustn't** I leave my bag here? B: No, you **have to/can/mustn't** keep it with you.
- C. You **have to/don't have to/mustn't** take photos of the artworks, but you **have to/can/must** buy a postcard in the gift shop.
- D. **Can't we/Can we/Do we have to** wear life jackets in the boat? B: Yes, it's **obligatory**.
- E. You **must/don't have to/mustn't** make an appointment to see the nurse. Just knock on the door.
- F. I **can't/must/mustn't** help you with your test. You **must/can/can't** do it by yourself.