0.7 Modal verbs for obligation and permission

To express obligation or necessity, we use:

- ***must***, especially when we refer to something the speaker feels is necessary or important:
  *I **must** call Mom.*
- ***have to***, especially when we refer to something that is necessary because of a rule or law, or because someone else says so:
  *We **have to** wear a uniform in school.*
- ***need to***:
  *Ana often **needs to** take care of her younger sister.*

To express lack of obligation or necessity, we use:

- ***don't have to***:
  *My dad **doesn't have to** wake up early. He starts work at twelve.*
- ***don't need to***:
  *You **don't need to** go to college this year.*

To express permission, we use:

- ***can***:
  *You **can** invite some friends if you want.*
- ***be allowed to***:
  *Students **are allowed to** work part-time.*

To express lack of permission or prohibition, we use:

- ***can't***:
  *You **can't** leave the classroom without permission from your teacher.*
- ***mustn't***:
  *You **mustn't** play loud music after 10 p.m.*
- ***not be allowed to***:
  *You **aren't allowed to** speak during the exam.*

1 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box.

are allowed to	can't	doesn't have to
don't have to	have to	is allowed to
must	needs to	

1. Elena _____ stay at home today because she was in the office on Saturday.
2. Richard _____ walk his dog now – his dad has already done it.
3. I'm afraid you _____ use a dictionary during the test. Please put it back on the shelf.
4. I _____ go now – my friends are waiting for me.
5. It was great to see you, Alex. We _____ get together more often.
6. My sister is a student, but she still _____ call my parents every day.
7. Ally and Mike _____ get home until midnight on Saturdays, so they usually stay out until 10 or 11 p.m.
8. My younger brothers _____ play video games for only an hour a day, but they would like to spend more time playing them.

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2 Choose the correct options.

1 John *is allowed to / can't / must* go on vacation by himself – he's too young.
2 Students *don't have to / mustn't / can* call their teachers by their first names – it's a very modern school.
3 You *can't / mustn't / need to* be by the school gate at 3 o'clock. Don't be late!
4 We *are allowed to / have to / mustn't* stand up when the principal enters the room – he's very formal.
5 Teenagers *have to / mustn't / can't* study hard for their exams if they want to get into college.
6 He *has to / is allowed to / mustn't* call them when he is going to be home late or they get worried.
7 You *must / need to / don't have to* bring any food. My aunt is going to prepare everything.
8 Victor *isn't allowed to / has to / can* go out during the week. His parents are very strict.

3 Complete the sentences with *must* or *have/has to*.

1 We _____ go to school this Saturday – we're having a rehearsal for a new play.
2 I've heard it's a great novel. I _____ read it!
3 All students _____ wear uniforms in my school.
4 Does Amy _____ work in the restaurant three times a week?
5 I'm really tired. I _____ go to bed early tonight.
6 I don't think Jo has heard the news yet. You _____ text her as soon as possible.
7 Visitors _____ switch off their cell phones here.
8 What do we _____ prepare for our next English class?

LIVEWORKSHEETS