

# 43 Must/have to, mustn't/don't have to

**1** We use **must** when the speaker thinks it is necessary or important to do an action:  
*You must go.* (= It is important that you go.)

We make negatives, questions and short answers like this:

*You mustn't go.*

*Must you go? ~ Yes, I must.*

**2** We use **have to** to talk about an action that is necessary because of rules or laws, or because someone obliges us to do it:

*Doctors sometimes have to work on Sunday.*  
(It is in the rules of their work.)

We make negatives, questions and short answers with a form of **do**:

*Teachers don't have to work on Sunday.*

*Do you have to work today? ~ No, I don't.*

**3** POSITIVE

In positive sentences we can often use **must** and **have to** with little difference in meaning, because many things are important both because we think so and because there are rules:

*You must work hard in order to succeed*  
(OR ... *you have to work ...*).

**4** NEGATIVE

Note the difference in meaning between **mustn't** and **don't have to**.

In negative sentences we often use **mustn't** to say that something is against the rules, or against the law:

*You mustn't smoke on buses.* (Smoking is against the rules.)

*In football you mustn't touch the ball with your hands.* (Touching the ball is against the rules.)

We use **don't have to** to say that people are not obliged to do something:

*In Britain, people don't have to carry a passport with them.* (= People are not obliged to carry one.)

*Nowadays pupils do not have to learn Latin at school.* (= They are not obliged to learn it.)

**5** QUESTIONS

In questions we usually use **do/does ... have to** (NOT **must**) to ask if something is obligatory or important:

*Does Michael have to get up early tomorrow?*  
*Do we have to wait here?*

## Practice

**A** The Stanton Squash Club has decided that it is important for all club members to do these things:

wear sports shoes and clean clothes   have a shower   pay before you play   finish on time

But these things are not allowed:

disturb other players   eat or drink outside the bar   take club balls home

Put **have to**, **don't have to** or **mustn't** in the gaps.

▶ You don't have to ..... wear white clothes, but you have to ..... wear sports shoes.

▶ You mustn't ..... disturb other players, but you don't have to ..... be silent.

1 You ..... finish on time, but you ..... start on time.

2 You ..... play with club balls, but if you do, you ..... take them home.

3 You ..... eat or drink outside the bar, but you ..... buy your food in the bar if you don't want to.

4 You ..... have a shower, and you ..... wear clean clothes.

**B** Look at the signs and complete the sentences with *don't have to* or *mustn't*.

**ANTIQUES**  
Please feel free to come in.  
(No eating inside.)

- ▶ You *don't have to*..... go in.
- ▶ You *mustn't*..... eat inside.

Entry possible  
**30 minutes**  
before the concert.  
No late arrivals  
allowed.

- 1 ..... arrive half an hour early.
- 2 You ..... arrive late.

All vehicles – **slow**.  
Drivers of large  
vehicles, wait for  
guard before crossing.

- 3 Small vehicles ..... wait.
- 4 Drivers of large vehicles ..... cross alone.

**STUDENTS!**  
Please be quiet –  
**4th-year exam**  
in progress.

- 5 Students ..... make a noise.
- 6 Third-year students ..... take the exam.

**LIBRARY**  
No talking.  
Please leave books  
on tables.

- 7 You ..... talk in the library.
- 8 You ..... put the books back on the shelves.

**SWIMMING POOL**  
Free swim today.  
No eating.  
No drinking.

- 9 Swimmers ..... pay today.
- 10 Swimmers ..... eat or drink by the pool.

**C** Put the words in the box in the gaps. Don't add any other words.

Does she    have to    has    she has    must    mustn't    ~~have~~    does she

Mark: We (▶) *have*..... to get up early tomorrow.

Bob: Why?

Mark: Have you forgotten? Angela (1)..... to move to a new flat tomorrow, and I promised we would help her.

Bob: (2)..... have to move out by a particular time?

Mark: No, there's no rush. She doesn't (3)..... leave her old flat before the afternoon, but there are lots of things that (4)..... to pack, so we (5)..... get there fairly early.

Bob: Why (6)..... have to move, by the way?

Mark: She said that I (7)..... tell you because she wants to tell you herself, when she sees you tomorrow.