

# Have to and must

A

I **have to** do something = it is necessary to do it, I am obliged to do it:

- You can't turn right here. You **have to** turn left.
- I **have to** wear glasses for reading.
- George can't come out with us this evening. He **has to** work late.
- Last week Tina broke her arm and **had to** go to hospital.
- I haven't **had to** go to the doctor for ages.

You have to turn left here.



We use **do/does/did** in questions and negative sentences (for the present and past simple):

- What **do** I **have to do** to get a new driving licence? (*not* What have I to do?)
- Karen **doesn't have to** work Saturdays. (*not* Karen hasn't to)
- Why **did** you **have to** leave early?

You can use **have to** with **will** and **might/may**:

- If the pain gets worse, you'll **have to** go to the doctor.
- I **might have to** work late tomorrow evening. *or* I **may have to** work ... (= it's possible that I will have to)

B

**Must** is similar to **have to**:

- It's later than I thought. I **must** go. *or* I **have to** go.

You can use **must** to give your own opinion (for example, to say what *you* think is necessary, or to recommend someone to do something). **Have to** is also possible:

- I haven't spoken to Sue for ages. I **must** phone her. (= I say this is necessary)
- Mark is a really nice person. You **must** meet him. (I recommend this)

We use **have to** (*not must*) to say what someone is *obliged* to do. The speaker is not giving his/her own opinion:

- I **have to** work from 8.30 to 5.30 every day. (a fact, not an opinion)
- Jane **has to** travel a lot for her work.

But **must** is often used in written rules and instructions:

- Applications for the job **must be** received by 18 May.
- (*exam instruction*) You **must** write your answers in ink.

You cannot use **must** to talk about the past:

- We **had** to leave early. (*not* we **must**)

C

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

You **mustn't** do something = it is necessary that you do *not* do it (so don't do it):

- You **must** keep it a secret. You **mustn't** tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone)
- I promised I would be on time. I **mustn't** be late. (= I must be on time)

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

- You **don't have to** tell him, but you can if you want to.
- I **don't have to** be at the meeting, but I think I'll go anyway.

D

You can use **have got to** instead of **have to**. So you can say:

- I've **got to** work tomorrow. *or* I **have to** work tomorrow.
- When has Liz **got to** go? *or* When does Liz **have to** go?



### 31.1 Complete the sentences with have to / has to / had to.

- 1 Bill starts work at 5 a.m. He has to get up at four. (he / get up)
- 2 'I broke my arm last week.' ' Did you have to go to hospital?' (you / go)
- 3 There was a lot of noise from the street. .... the window.  
(we / close)
- 4 Karen can't stay for the whole meeting. .... early. (she / leave)
- 5 How old ..... to drive in your country? (you / be)
- 6 I don't have much time. .... (I / hurry)
- 7 How is Paul enjoying his new job? ..... a lot? (he / travel)
- 8 'I'm afraid I can't stay long.' 'What time ..... ?' (you / go)
- 9 'The bus was late again.' 'How long ..... ?' (you / wait)
- 10 There was nobody to help me. I ..... everything by myself. (I / do)

### 31.2 Complete the sentences using have to + the verbs in the list. Some sentences are positive (I have to ... etc.) and some are negative (I don't have to ... etc.):

ask do drive ~~get up~~ go make make pay ~~show~~

- 1 I'm not working tomorrow, so I don't have to get up early.
- 2 Steve didn't know how to use the computer, so I had to show him.
- 3 Excuse me a moment - I ..... a phone call. I won't be long.
- 4 I'm not so busy. I have a few things to do, but I ..... them now.
- 5 I couldn't find the street I wanted. I ..... somebody for directions.
- 6 The car park is free. You ..... to park your car there.
- 7 A man was injured in the accident, but he ..... to hospital because it wasn't serious.
- 8 Sue has a senior position in the company. She ..... important decisions.
- 9 When Patrick starts his new job next month, he ..... 50 miles to work every day.

### 31.3 In some of these sentences, must is wrong or unnatural. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 It's later than I thought. I must go. OK (have to is also correct)
- 2 I must work every day from 8.30 to 5.30. I have to work
- 3 You must come and see us again soon. ....
- 4 Tom can't meet us tomorrow. He must work. ....
- 5 I must work late yesterday evening. ....
- 6 I must get up early tomorrow. I have lots to do. ....
- 7 Julia wears glasses. She must wear glasses since she was very young. ....

### 31.4 Complete the sentences with mustn't or don't/doesn't have to.

- 1 I don't want anyone to know about our plan. You mustn't tell anyone.
- 2 Richard doesn't have to wear a suit to work, but he usually does.
- 3 I can stay in bed tomorrow morning because I ..... go to work.
- 4 Whatever you do, you ..... touch that switch. It's very dangerous.
- 5 There's a lift in the building, so we ..... climb the stairs.
- 6 You ..... forget what I told you. It's very important.
- 7 Sue ..... get up early, but she usually does.
- 8 Don't make so much noise. We ..... wake the children.
- 9 I ..... eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
- 10 You ..... be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.