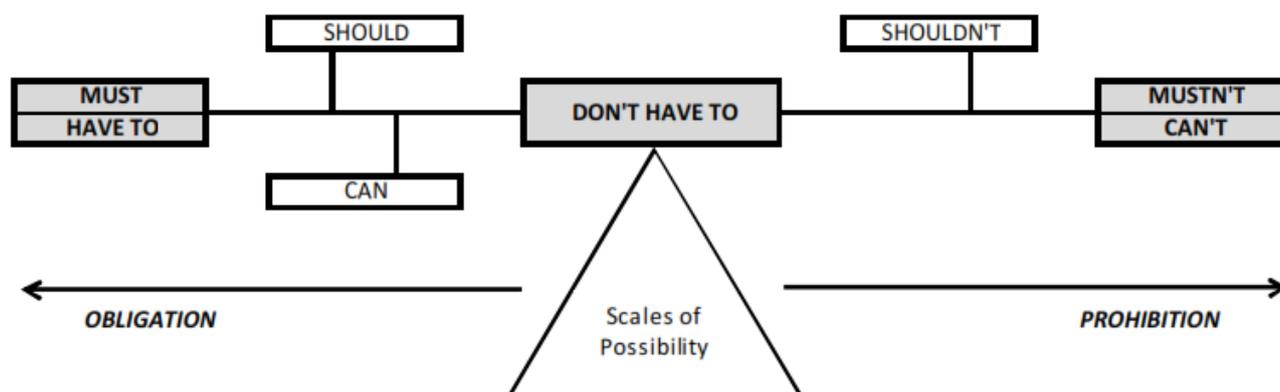


MUST and TO HAVE TO Obligation and prohibition

Remember to distinguish between POSITIVE and NEGATIVE sentences, check the TENSE of the sentence (past, present, future etc.) and identify the source of the obligation or prohibition (a person speaking, a written rule etc.).

- MUST in positive sentences implies obligation/necessity and, in its negative form MUSTN'T, prohibition.



- TO HAVE TO also implies obligation or necessity and is similar to MUST in many ways. Indeed, in this context these terms are often interchangeable. At times however, there are slight differences (see below).
- DO NOT HAVE TO (DON'T or DOESN'T HAVE TO) implies indifference or no obligation.

PROHIBITION (MUSTN'T / CAN'T)

Both *can't* and *mustn't* are used to show that something is prohibited – it is not allowed.

Can't tells us that something is against the rules (**an impersonal prohibition**). *Mustn't* is usually used when the obligation comes from the person who is speaking (**personal prohibition**).

OBLIGATION (MUST / HAVE TO)

Have to and *must* are both used to express obligation. There is a slight difference between the way they are used.

Have to shows us that the **obligation is general and impersonal** and derives from a fact or rule:

Must shows us that the **obligation is personal and specific**, it comes from the speaker. The meaning of MUST doesn't change, it is simply used to highlight a personal desire or need, let's say it gives the intention some extra importance.

BEWARE: in legal texts, technical instructions, etc., the terms MUST (obligation) and MUSTN'T (prohibition) are generally used.

IMPORTANT: To express obligation, duty or necessity in the future or the past, *must* is not used (it's a modal verb in the present tense). It is therefore replaced by *have to*.

IMPORTANT: the modal verb *must* is also used when the speaker **believes something is true or certain**. The negative modal verb *can't* is used when the speaker **believes something is not possible**. In both cases these verbs can also be used when referring to past events using the present perfect tense (*must/can't + have/has + past participle*).

NO OBLIGATION / INDIFFERENCE

We use *don't have to* to show that there is **no obligation**. You can do something if you want to but it's not compulsory. In these cases, we can also use *needn't + verb* or *don't need to + verb*.

RECOMMENDATION / ADVICE

We generally use the modal verb *should* to **recommend** something or doing something. It doesn't imply obligation. In the negative form the meaning doesn't change, *shouldn't* simply recommends NOT to do something. The modal verb *should* also has other (conditional) properties that will be discussed elsewhere.

MUST

MODAL VERBS

IN ENGLISH

must + **verb** *

I **must**
 You **must**
 He **must**
 She **must**
 It **must**
 We **must**
 They **must**

MUST

* The base form of the infinitive = **to go, to study, to speak, etc.**

You **must** **to go.** ✗
 You **must** go. ✓
 He **must** **wait.** ✗
 He **must** wait. ✓

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MUST

To express obligation or duty. This also refers to complying with rules, laws and regulations.

She **must** pass the English exam. She cannot graduate without it.
 You **must** wear a seatbelt at all times.
 You **must** eat all of your vegetables or you won't get any dessert.



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MODAL VERBS

MUST

Uses of Must:

Obligation or Duty

- You must wear a seatbelt when you drive.
- You must eat all of your vegetables.

Deduction (certain something is true)

- Look at all that snow. It must be cold outside.
- I heard a noise upstairs. Mary must be home.

Emphasize Necessity

- Plants must have light and water to grow.
- You must study if you want good grades.

Strong Recommendation

- We must get together for dinner soon.
- These cupcakes are yummy. You must try one.

Positive Assumption (Past)

Must + Have + Past Participle

- That must have been my mother calling me while I was in the meeting. No one else has my private phone number.

must + verb *

* The base form of the infinitive = **to go, to study, to speak, etc.**

He **must** **stop.** ✗
 He **must** stop. ✓
 You **must** **to go.** ✗
 You **must** go. ✓
 She **must** **wait.** ✗
 She **must** wait. ✓

Mustn't = Must not

It is important that you do NOT do something.
 = it is prohibited
 = it is not allowed
 - You mustn't use your phone while driving.

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MUST

Fill the gaps with **Must** or **Mustn't** and one of the following verbs:
come - make - play - stop - touch - wear

1. You _____ the stove. It is very hot.
2. You _____ when the traffic light is red.
3. You _____ with me. I can't go alone.
4. You _____ with matches. They're dangerous.
5. You _____ any noise. The baby is sleeping.
6. You _____ a helmet whenever you ride a bike.

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