60 Obligations

In English, "have to" or "must" are used when talking about obligations or things that are necessary. They are often used to give important instructions.

MA

60.1 OBLIGATIONS

"Must" and "have to" both express a strong need or obligation to do something.

"Must not" is a strong negative obligation. It means something is not allowed.

"**Don't have to**" means something is not necessary, or there is no obligation.



You <mark>don't have</mark> to come again. Your leg is better.

You must not get your bandage wet, or your leg might not heal properly.

You You have to rest, or your leg won't heal.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

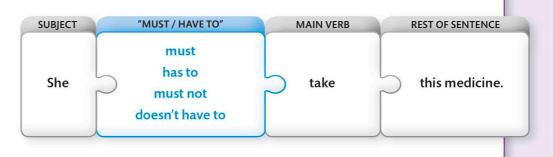
He must take two pills each morning and evening for the next two weeks.

She must not go back to work until her back is better.

Do I have to go back to the doctor again? I'm feeling so much better now.

HOW TO FORM

"Must" does not change with the subject, but "have to" becomes "has to" in the third person singular. Both forms are followed by the base form of the main verb.



See also: Future with "will" 18 Types of verbs 49 Modal verbs 56

COMMON MISTAKES "MUST NOT" AND "DON'T HAVE TO"

"Must not" and "don't have to" do not mean the same thing. "Must not" is used to give an instruction that forbids someone from doing something. "Don't have to" is used to tell someone that it is not necessary that they do something.

You must not use a calculator during this exam.



[It is against the rules to use a calculator during this exam.]

You don't have to use a calculator, but it might be useful.

[You are allowed to use a calculator, but it is not required.]

