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Do you remember which modal verbs we can use to express [obligation](#)? To talk about obligation, freedom and necessity to do something, we use the verbs '*must*' and '*have to*'.

In negative statements and questions, '*must*' and '*have to*' have special meaning and are used differently.

Remember that modal verbs are always followed by a *base form of a verb* - an [infinitive](#) verb without *to*.

Negative sentences

Prohibition

'*Must not*' is a negative obligation, meaning that something *is not allowed*.

We form negative statements with '*must not*' like this:

subject + must not + the verb

Singular	Plural
<i>I must not (mustn't) speak</i>	<i>We must not speak</i>
<i>You must not speak</i>	<i>You must not speak</i>
<i>He/she/it must not speak</i>	<i>They must not speak</i>

- *She **must not take** this medicine.*
- *You **mustn't smoke** in the office.*

No obligation

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.

The structure is:

subject + do not / don't / doesn't have to + the verb

Singular

Plural

I do not (don't) have to wait

We don't have to wait

You don't have to wait

You don't have to wait

He/she/it doesn't have to wait

They don't have to wait

- You **don't have to buy** me a birthday present.
- It's summertime, and Peter **doesn't have to go** to school.

Let's summarize:

Mustn't = prohibition
Don't have to = it is not necessary



You mustn't get up
(prohibition)



You don't have to get up
(it is not necessary)

via <https://pt.slideshare.net/maypulido/mustnt-blog/6>

Questions

We also use '**have to**' in questions, for example, to ask if something is necessary. Such questions are formed like this:

Do / Does + subject + have to + the verb

Singular

Plural

Do I have to speak?

Do we have to speak?

Do you have to speak?

Do you have to speak?

Does he/she/it have to speak? Do they have to speak?

- *Do I have to get ready now?*
- *Does she have to leave before 12 a.m.?*

Note: '*Must*' is possible for questions, for example:

- *Must we finish this today?*

But it is not as common as '*have to*'.

Watch this video from Woodward English where you'll learn the difference between '*mustn't*' and '*don't have to*' and can practise these phrases:

Read more on this topic:

[Modal Verbs for Obligations: Statements](#)

[Modal Verbs for Necessity \('Need'\)](#)