

## 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.
- Robert 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.



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 say **I'll have to ...**, **I'm going to have to ...** and **I might / I may have to ...**:

- They can't fix my computer, so **I'll have to buy** a new one. *or* **I'm going to have to buy** a new one.
- Tom **might have to work** late tomorrow. *or* Tom **may have to work ...** (= it's possible that he 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** or **have to** to give your own opinion (for example, to say what you think is necessary, or to recommend someone to do something):

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

We use **have to** (*not usually 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 used in written rules and instructions:

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

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

- We didn't have much time. We **had** to hurry. (*not* we must hurry)

**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** this 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** Tom what happened. I can tell him myself.
- 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** Helen **got to** go? *or* When **does** Helen **have to** go?

# Exercises

## 31.1 Complete the sentences using **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. \_\_\_\_\_ soon. (I / go)
- 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 turn off 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 too 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 Jane 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 a lot 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 sleep late 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 Silvia \_\_\_\_\_ 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.