

Modals of Necessity & Obligation

Table of Contents

- 2 QUICK AND HANDY GRAMMAR REVIEW**
Modals of Necessity & Obligation

- 5 EXERCISE 1**
Rewrite the sentences using must or have to.

- 6 EXERCISE 2**
Fill in the blanks with must not or don't have to.

- 7 EXERCISE 3**
Write questions and short answers using have to or don't have to.

- 8 EXERCISE 4**
State the rules of a company for a new employee.

- 9 EXERCISE 5**
Ask your partner about traditions in his/her country.

- 10 EXERCISE 6**
Rewrite each of the school rules.

- 11 EXERCISE 7**
Write ten rules for a new community center using positive and negative modals.

Quick and Handy Grammar Review

MODALS OF NECESSITY & OBLIGATION: MUST, HAVE TO & HAVE GOT TO

A. Introduction

Modals come before a main verb and give it extra meaning (*ability, advice, necessity, possibility*, etc.) Modals of necessity/obligation are used for expressing rules or strong advice.

Modal Pattern: Modal + Base Verb

In English, modals are always followed by a base verb.

A base verb is a verb with **no ending** (-s, -ed, -ing, etc.) attached to it.

B. Modals and Modal Expressions

In English, there are three common ways to express necessity and obligation in the present or future: **must**, **have to**, and **have got to**. *Must* is a true modal, while *have to* and *have got to* are modal expressions made up of two or three words. Modals never change form (there is no subject-verb agreement to worry about), whereas modal expressions must agree with the subject.

- You **must** take the test.
- She **must** take the test.
- You **have to** take the test.
- She **has to** take the test.
- You **have got to** take the test.
- She **has got to** take the test.

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
MODAL	must	must not	must
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must pass the test. • He must exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not fail. • He must not smoke. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must I take the test? • Must he exercise?
USAGE	common	common	not common
CONTRACTION	no	yes, but not common (mustn't)	no
STRENGTH	strong	strong	strong
FORMALITY	formal	formal	very formal and old-fashioned

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

MODALS OF NECESSITY & OBLIGATION: MUST, HAVE TO & HAVE GOT TO

B. Modals and Modal Expressions cont.

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
MODAL	have to	do not have to	have to
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have to pass the test. He has to exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do not have to take the test. He does not have to exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do I have to take the test? Does he have to exercise?
USAGE	common	common	common
CONTRACTION	no	yes (don't have to / doesn't have to)	no
STRENGTH	strong	weak*	strong
FORMALITY	formal and informal	formal and informal	formal and informal

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
MODAL	have got to	—	—
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have got to take the test. He has got to exercise. 	—	—
USAGE	common (speaking more than writing)	—	—
CONTRACTION	yes ('ve got to / 's got to)	—	—
STRENGTH	slightly less strong	—	—
FORMALITY	informal	—	—

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

MODALS OF NECESSITY & OBLIGATION: MUST, HAVE TO & HAVE GOT TO

C. Grammar Notes

*DON'T HAVE TO

Be careful! *Don't have to* and *must not* have very different meanings in English. *Must not* expresses strong obligation—you cannot do something. *Don't have to* means you can choose not to do something, but *you can do it if you want to*.

CAN'T

Can / cannot / can't are modals of ability and permission, but in the negative, *cannot / can't* can also express that something is forbidden or must not be done. We can call *cannot / can't* a modal of necessity/obligation with a very similar meaning to *must not*.

HAVE GOT TO

Why is there a present (have) and past (got) verb together in this expression? *Have got to* is a very old expression in English that is still commonly used nowadays. Just remember that, like the other modals of necessity, it is used to express obligation in the *present* or *future*.

D. Pronunciation Notes

When speaking at a natural speed, English speakers often reduce modals. Remember that while these reductions are very common in informal speaking, we *never* write them.

Modal	Reduction	Example (Spoken Only)
have to	hafta	I hafta meet my friend after class.
has to	hasta	She hasta redo her assignment this weekend.
have got to	have gotta	We've gotta try harder in school.
has got to	has gotta	He's gotta go to his appointment now.

Exercise 1

Rewrite the sentences below using *must* or *have to*.

1. We must arrive to class on time.

We have to arrive to class on time.

2. I have to start concentrating harder in class.

3. She has to give the book back to the teacher.

4. My friend must get more sleep at night.

5. Our teacher must prepare
us for the standardized test.

6. My classmates have to participate
in the conversation class.

7. Mr. Jones has to start exercising.

8. Yuka must take vitamins every day.

9. He must learn not to interrupt the teacher.

10. They must finish their report on time.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with *must not* or *don't have to* and the verb.

1. I must not forget to lock up when I leave.
(forget)
2. My father _____ junk food every day because it's bad for his heart.
(eat)
3. You _____ the entire article if you don't want to.
(read)
4. She's lucky. She _____ her homework before going out tonight.
(finish)
5. We _____ our trip right now. We can wait for another time.
(plan)
6. The CEO _____ to the shareholders. They will soon realize that profits have fallen.
(lie)
7. We _____ late for the morning meeting.
(be)
8. You _____. It wasn't your fault.
(apologize)

Exercise 3

Fill in the missing short answers and questions below.

A. Short Answers

1. Does she have to register for the course beforehand? **(yes)**

Yes, she does.

2. Do we have to bring food to the party? **(no)**

3. Do children have to be careful near a swimming pool? **(yes)**

4. Does my friend have to finish her homework before going out? **(yes)**

5. Does he have to give a speech at the conference? **(no)**

B. Questions

1. Does she have to buy a new dress for the party?

No, she doesn't. (She doesn't have to buy a new dress for the party.)

2. _____

Yes, they do. (They have to remind the kids about the field trip.)

3. _____

Yes, he does. (He has to tell his boss when he's finished the report.)

4. _____

No, you don't. (You don't have to create an account in order to access the website.)

5. _____

No, you don't. (You don't have to buy them a gift.)

Exercise 4

A. Writing Practice

An employee is at an orientation for his/her new job. Unscramble the sentences. Write the rules the employer gives to the new employee using *must*, *have to*, and *have got to*. Use contractions whenever possible.

1. wear / must / business attire / at the office

You must wear business attire at the office.

5. to get / clients / have got to /
remember / a temporary visitor's pass

2. the schedule / every morning / have to / check

6. do not have to / your computer /
shut down / every night

3. familiarize / yourself /
with the procedure manual / must

7. clean up / have got to /
your work station / before you leave

4. to the Human Resources department /
have to / send / this form

8. your computer / home / at night / cannot / take

B. Speaking Practice

Now take turns being the employer and the new employee. Using the information in Part A, ask questions and state the company's rules in your responses. Use pronunciation reductions whenever possible.

Example:

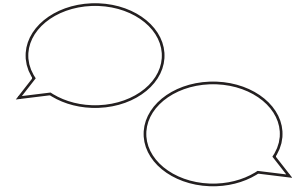
Employee: *Do I have to wear business attire at the office?*

Employer: *Yes, you must wear business attire. OR
Yes, you hafta wear business attire.*

Exercise 5

A. Speaking

Ask your partner about traditions in his/her country. You must use the following modals at least once each in your discussion: *must*, *must not*, *can't*, *have to*, *don't have to*, and *have got to*. If you and your partner are from the same country, talk about your family traditions or household rules instead. Practice using contractions and reduced pronunciation.



B. Writing

Now write five sentences about your partner's country (or family).

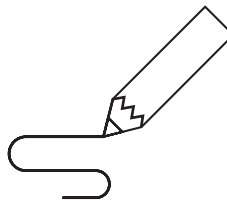
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



Exercise 6

Rewrite each of these school rules by using a modal of necessity of your choice.

1. Get to school on time.

You have to get to school on time.

2. Don't speak your native language in class.

3. Do your homework every night.

4. Interrupting the teacher will not be tolerated.

5. Ask questions when you don't understand something.

6. Don't run in the hallways.

7. Participating in an after-school sport is optional.

8. Eating in the classroom is only allowed during the lunch hour.

9. Don't text your friends in class.

10. Attending the after-school study sessions is optional.

Exercise 7

Get into small groups. Imagine that you are on your city's planning committee for a new community center. Come up with ten rules for the new center. Use positive and negative modals of necessity.

Examples:

- You must not smoke on the premises.
- You have to register for courses a week in advance.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____
