

A Must mustn't needn't

- 'You must do something' = it is necessary that you do it:
- Don't tell anybody what I said. You must keep it a secret.
- We haven't got much time. We must hurry.
- 'You mustn't do something' = it is necessary that you do *not* do it (so don't do it):
- You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anybody else. (= don't tell anybody else)
- It's essential that nobody hears us. We mustn't make any noise.
- 'You needn't do something' = it is *not necessary* that you do it; you don't need to do it:
- You can come with me if you like but you needn't come if you don't want to. (= it is not necessary for you to come)
- We've got plenty of time. We needn't hurry. (= it is not necessary to hurry)

Instead of needn't, you can use don't/doesn't need to. So you can say:

- We needn't hurry. *or* We don't need to hurry.
- Remember that we say 'don't need to do', but 'needn't do' (without to).
- Needn't and don't need to are similar to don't have to (see Unit 31C):
- We've got plenty of time. We don't have to hurry.

B Needn't have (done)

Study this example situation:



George had to go out. He thought it was going to rain, so he decided to take the umbrella. But it didn't rain, so the umbrella was not necessary. So: He needn't have taken the umbrella.

'He needn't have taken the umbrella' = He took the umbrella but this was not necessary. Of course, he didn't know this when he went out.

Compare needn't (do) and needn't have (done):

- That shirt isn't dirty. You needn't wash it.
- Why did you wash that shirt? It wasn't dirty. You needn't have washed it.

C Didn't need to (do) and needn't have (done)

I didn't need to... = it was not necessary for me to... (and I knew this at the time):

- I didn't need to get up early, so I didn't.
- I didn't need to get up early, but it was a lovely morning, so I did.
- 'I needn't have (done) something' = I did something but *now* I know that it was not necessary:
- I got up very early because I had to get ready to go away. But in fact it didn't take me long to get ready. So, I needn't have got up so early. I could have stayed in bed longer.

32.2 Complete the sentences with must, mustn't or needn't.

- 1 We haven't got much time. We **must** hurry.
- 2 We've got plenty of time. We **needn't** hurry.
- 3 We have enough food at home so we **don't need to** go shopping today.
- 4 Jim gave me a letter to post. I **mustn't** forget to post it.
- 5 Jim gave me a letter to post. I **mustn't** forget to post it.
- 6 There's plenty of time for you to make up your mind. You **needn't** decide now.
- 7 You **mustn't** wash those tomatoes. They've already been washed.
- 8 This is a valuable book. You **mustn't** look after it carefully and you **needn't** lose it.
- 9 'What sort of house do you want to buy? Something big?' 'Well, it **needn't** be big **but** it **mustn't** have a nice garden **and** it **mustn't** be too far from the city.'

29.1 Write these sentences in a different way using may or might.

- 1 Perhaps Margaret is in her office. **She might be in her office.**
 - 2 Perhaps Margaret is busy.
 - 3 Perhaps she is working.
 - 4 Perhaps she wants to be alone.
 - 5 Perhaps she was ill yesterday.
 - 6 Perhaps she went home early.
 - 7 Perhaps she had to go home early.
 - 8 Perhaps she was working yesterday.
- In sentences 9-11 use may not or might not.*
- 9 Perhaps she doesn't want to see me.
 - 10 Perhaps she isn't working today.
 - 11 Perhaps she wasn't feeling well yesterday.

29.2 Complete the sentences with a verb in the correct form.

- 1 'Where's Bob?' 'I'm not sure. He might **be having** lunch.'
- 2 'Who is that man with Ann?' 'I'm not sure. It might **be** her brother.'
- 3 'Who was the man we saw with Ann yesterday?' 'I'm not sure. It might **have been** her brother.'
- 4 'Why are those people waiting in the street?' 'I don't know. They might **be waiting** for a bus.'
- 5 'Shall I buy this book for Tim?' 'You'd better not. He might already **have bought** it.'

30.3 Complete the sentences using might be able to or might have to + a suitable verb.

- 1 I can't help you but why don't you ask Jill? She **might be able to help** you.
- 2 I can't meet you this evening but I **might be able to help** you tomorrow evening.
- 3 I'm not working on Saturday but I **might be able to come to the party** on Sunday.
- 4 George isn't well. He **might have to go** to hospital for an operation.

30.4 Write sentences with may not or might not.

- 1 (I don't know if Ann will come to the party.) **Ann might not come to the party.**
- 2 (I don't know if I'll go out this evening.) I **might not go out this evening.**
- 3 (I don't know if Tom will like the present I bought for him.) Tom **might not like the present.**
- 4 (I don't know if Sue will be able to meet us this evening.) Sue **might not be able to meet us this evening.**

26.1 Complete the sentences using can or (be) able to. Use can if possible; otherwise use (be) able to.

- 1 George has travelled a lot. He **can** speak four languages.
- 2 I haven't **been able to** sleep very well recently.
- 3 Sandra **can't** drive but she hasn't got a car.
- 4 I can't understand Martin. I've never **been able to** understand him.
- 5 I used to **be able to** stand on my head but I can't do it now.
- 6 I can't see you on Friday but I **was able to** meet you on Saturday morning.
- 7 Ask Catherine about your problem. She might **be able to** help you.

26.3 Complete the sentences with can / can't / could / couldn't + one of these verbs:

- come** **eat** **hear** **run** **sleep** **wait**
- 1 I'm afraid I **can't** **hear** you at your party next week.
 - 2 When Tim was 16, he was a fast runner. He **could** run 100 metres in 11 seconds.
 - 3 'Are you in a hurry?' 'No, I've got plenty of time. I **can** wait for you.'
 - 4 I was feeling sick yesterday. I **couldn't** **eat** anything.
 - 5 Can you speak up a bit? I **can't** **hear** you very well.
 - 6 'You look tired.' 'Yes, I **can't** **sleep** last night.'

Must and have to

A We use **must** and **have to** to say that it is necessary to do something. Sometimes it doesn't matter which you use:

- Oh, it's later than I thought. I **must go**. *or* I **have to go**.

But there is a difference between **must** and **have to** and sometimes this is important:

<p>Must is personal. We use must when we give our personal feelings.</p> <p>● You must do something? = 'I (the speaker) say it is necessary':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● She's a really nice person. You must meet her. (= I say this is necessary) ● I haven't phoned Ann for ages. I must phone her tonight. 	<p>Have to is impersonal. We use have to for facts, not for our personal feelings.</p> <p>● You have to do something because of a rule or the situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You can't turn right here. You have to turn left. (because of the traffic system) ● My eyesight isn't very good. I have to wear glasses for reading. ● George can't come out with us this evening. He has to work.
---	---

Compare:

- I **must** get up early tomorrow. There are a lot of things I want to do.
- I **have to** get up early tomorrow. I'm going away and my train leaves at 7.30.

If you are not sure which to use, it is usually safer to use **have to**.

B You can use **must** to talk about the present or future, but not the past:

- We **must go** now.
- We **must go** tomorrow. (*but not* 'We **must go** yesterday')

You can use **have to** in all forms. For example:

- I **had to go to hospital**. (*past*)
- **Have you ever had to go to hospital?** (*present perfect*)
- I **might have to go to hospital**. (*infinitive after might*)

In questions and negative sentences with **have to**, we normally use **do/does/did**:

- What **do** I **have to do** to get a driving licence? (*not* 'What **have I to do**?')
- Why **did** you **have to go to hospital**?
- Karen **doesn't have to** work on Saturdays.

Mustn't and **don't have to** are completely different:

<p>You mustn't do something = it is necessary that you do not do it (so, <i>don't do</i> it):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You must keep it 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) 	<p>You don't have to do something = you don't need to do it (but you can if you want):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You can tell me if you want but you don't have to tell me. (= you don't need to tell me) ● I'm not working tomorrow, so I don't have to get up early.
---	--

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 Ann **got to go**? *or* When does Ann **have to go**?

31.4 Complete these sentences with **mustn't** or **don't/doesn't have to**.

- 1 I don't want anyone to know. You **mustn't** tell anyone.
- 2 He **doesn't have to** wear a suit to work but he usually does.
- 3 I can stay in bed tomorrow morning because I **don't have to** get up early.
- 4 Whatever you do, you **mustn't** touch that switch. It's very dangerous.
- 5 There's a lift in the building, so we **don't have to** climb the stairs.
- 6 You **mustn't** forget what I told you. It's very important.
- 7 Sue **doesn't have to** get up early. She gets up early because she wants to.
- 8 Don't make so much noise. We **mustn't** wake the baby.
- 9 I **don't have to** eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
- 10 You **mustn't** be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.

31.1 Complete these sentences with **must** or **have to** (in the correct form). Sometimes it is possible to use either; sometimes only **have to** is possible.

- 1 It's later than I thought. I **must** *or* **have to** go now.
- 2 Jack left before the end of the meeting. He **had to** go home early.
- 3 In Britain many children **have to** wear uniform when they go to school.
- 4 When you come to London again, you **must** come and see us.
- 5 Last night Don became ill suddenly. We **had to** call a doctor.
- 6 You really **must** work harder if you want to pass the examination.
- 7 I'm afraid I can't come tomorrow. I **must** work late.
- 8 I'm sorry I couldn't come yesterday. I **had to** work late.
- 9 Paul doesn't like his new job. Sometimes he **has to** work at weekends.
- 10 Caroline may **have to** go away next week.
- 11 We couldn't repair the car ourselves. We **had to** take it to a garage.
- 12 Julia wears glasses. She **has to** wear glasses since she was very young.

31.2 Make questions with **have to**.

- 1 I had to go to hospital last week.
- 2 I have to get up early tomorrow.
- 3 Ann has to go somewhere now.
- 4 George had to pay a parking fine yesterday.
- 5 I had to wait a long time for the bus.
- 6 I have to phone my sister now.
- 7 Paul has to leave soon.

- Why **did you have to go to hospital**?
- Why **do you have to get up early**?
- Where **does she have to go**?
- How long **did you have to wait**?
- Why **do you have to phone your sister**?
- What time **does Paul have to leave**?

28.1 Put in **must** or **can't**.

- 1 You've been travelling all day. You **must** be very tired.
- 2 That restaurant **must** be very good. It's always full of people.
- 3 That restaurant **can't** be very good. It's always empty.
- 4 You're going on holiday next week. You **must** be looking forward to it.
- 5 It rained every day during their holiday, so they **must** have had a very nice time.
- 6 Congratulations on passing your exam. You **must** be very pleased.
- 7 You got here very quickly. You **must** have walked very fast.
- 8 Bill and Sue go away on holiday very often, so they **must** be short of money.

I

Ought to...

You can use **ought to** instead of **should** in the sentences on this page. Note that we say 'ought to do...' (with to):

- Do you think I **ought to apply** for this job? (= Do you think I **should apply**...?)
- Jack **ought not to go** to bed so late. (= Jack **shouldn't go**...)
- It was a great party last night. You **ought to have come**.
- She's been studying hard for the exam, so she **ought to pass**.

33.1 For each situation write a sentence with **should** or **shouldn't** + one of the following:

- 1 (Liz needs a change.) **She should go away for a few days.**
- 2 (My salary is very low.) You **should** look for another job.
- 3 (Jack always has difficulty getting up.) He **should** use her car so much.
- 4 (What a beautiful view!) You **should** call a doctor.
- 5 (Sue drives everywhere. She never walks.) She **should** work at weekends.
- 6 (Bill's room isn't very interesting.) You **should** wear glasses since she was very young.