

Have to and must

A

We use **have to** to say that it is necessary to do something:

- I **have to** get up early tomorrow. My flight leaves at 7:30.
- This street ends at the next block, so you **have to** turn.
- Jason can't meet us this evening. He **has to** work late.
- Last week Nicole broke her arm and **had to** go to the hospital.
- Have you ever **had to** go to the hospital?
- I might **have to** leave the meeting early.

B

In *simple present* and *simple past* questions, we use **do/does/did**:

- What **do** I **have to** do to get a driver's license? (*not* What have I to do?)
- Does Kimberly **have to** work tomorrow?
- Why **did** you **have to** go to the hospital?

In negative sentences, we use **don't/doesn't/didn't**:

- I **don't** **have to** get up early tomorrow. (*not* I haven't to get up)
- Kimberly **doesn't** **have to** work on Saturdays.
- We **didn't** **have to** pay to park the car.

C

You can use **have got to** instead of **have to** for the present. So you can say:

- I've **got to** work now. *or* I **have to** work now.
- He's **got to** visit his aunt *or* He **has to** visit his aunt
in the hospital tonight. in the hospital tonight.

D

We can also use **must** to say that it is necessary to do something:

- I **must** get to the store before it closes.
- When you go to San Francisco next week, you really **must** visit Golden Gate Park.

Must is often used in written rules and instructions:

- You **must** apply by April 15. (= your application won't be accepted after that date)
- This medicine **must** be taken with food. (or your stomach will be upset)

You can also use **have to** in these situations.

We use **must** to talk about the present or future but not the past:

- I **had to** get up early yesterday. (*not* I **must**)

E

Mustn't (= must not) and **don't / doesn't have to** are completely different in meaning:

You **mustn't** do something = it is necessary that you not do it, so **don't** do it:

- 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)

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 him, but you can if you want to.
- Sue isn't working tomorrow, so she **doesn't have to** get up early.

Exercises

30.1 Complete the sentences with *have to / has to / had to*.

1. Jason can't meet us this evening. He *has to* _____ work late.
2. Beth left before the end of the meeting. She _____ go home early.
3. I don't have much time. I _____ go soon.
4. Kathy may _____ go away next week.
5. Eric is usually free on weekends, but sometimes he _____ work.
6. There was nobody to help me. I _____ do everything by myself.
7. Julie has _____ wear glasses since she was a small child.
8. Jeff has money problems. He's going to _____ sell his car.

30.2 Complete the questions using the words in parentheses.

1. "I broke my arm last week." " *Did you have to go* (you / have / go) to the hospital?"
2. "I'm afraid I can't stay very long." "What time _____ (you / have / go)?"
3. _____ (you / have / wait) long for the bus last night?
4. How old _____ (you / have / be) to drive in your country?
5. How does Chris like his new job? _____ (he / have / travel) a lot?

30.3 Complete these sentences using *have to* + one of the verbs in the list. Some sentences are positive (*I have to . . .*) and some are negative (*I don't have to . . .*).

ask do get-up go make make shave show

1. I'm not working tomorrow, so I *don't have to get up* _____ early.
2. Steve didn't know how to use the computer, so I *had to show* _____ him.
3. Excuse me for a minute - I _____ a phone call. I won't be long.
4. I couldn't find the street I was looking for. I _____ somebody for directions.
5. Jack has a beard, so he _____.
6. A man was injured in the accident, but he _____ to the hospital because it wasn't serious.
7. Sue is a vice-president in the company. She _____ important decisions.
8. I'm not very busy. I've got a few things to do, but I _____ them now.

30.4 Match the two halves of the sentences.

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| 1. You really must | a) be mailed by tomorrow. |
| 2. This letter must | b) to get our eyes tested. |
| 3. Eric says he has | c) finish their exams in one hour. |
| 4. My wife and I both have | d) visit the museum while you're here. |
| 5. I can't talk to you now. I have | e) to take his aunt to the hospital. |
| 6. All the students must | f) to make an important phone call right away. |

30.5 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 sleep late tomorrow morning because I _____ go to work.
4. Whatever you do, you _____ touch that switch. It's very dangerous.
5. There's an elevator in the building, so we _____ climb the stairs.
6. You _____ forget what I told you. It's very important.
7. Lauren _____ get up early. She gets up early because she wants to.
8. Don't make so much noise. We _____ wake the baby.
9. You _____ be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.