

MUST obligation/necessity and deduction

- **Subjective obligation – necessity: Must** can be used to give strong advice or orders to oneself or other people, to say that something is essential or necessary. In general, **must** expresses **personal** obligation, what the **speaker** thinks is necessary. **Must** is **subjective**: *I must go – I really must stop smoking (I want to).*
The "obligation" is the opinion or idea of the person speaking. It is **not imposed from outside**. **Usually the speaker agrees with it**. If we talk about or report an obligation that comes from the "outside" (from somebody else) use: **have to/have got to** (The speaker doesn't necessarily agree with it)
- **Deduction: Must** can be used to say that we are sure about something (**only used in affirmative sentences**) we are making a logical deduction: *Mary must have some problems: she keeps crying – That's the doorbell. It must be Bob – I must be getting old; I keep forgetting things.*
In questions and negatives we use can and can't: *that can't be the postman, it's too early.*
Deductions about the past: must have in affirmative sentences and **can /can't have** in questions and negatives: *We went to Paris. That must have been nice. – That sounds like an ambulance. Yes, there must have been an accident – Where is Bob? What can have happened to him? – He can't have forgotten*
- **Must not, Mustn't – prohibition**: Something is **not permitted or allowed**. The prohibition can be **subjective** (speaker's opinion) or **objective** (a real law or rule): *Passengers must not talk to the driver. (objective) - I mustn't eat so much sugar. (subjective)- You mustn't watch so much TV. (subjective) - Students must not leave bicycles here. (objective)- Policemen must not drink on duty. (objective)*
May not and **must not** (used to forbid) often have a similar meaning (**must not** is more emphatic): *Visitors may not (or must not) feed the birds. Must not cannot be used to talk about the past: I wasn't allowed in - I couldn't park outside.*

HAVE (GOT) TO - objective obligation/responsibilities

Have to (pronunciation: hæf tə/hæftu) is **NOT** an auxiliary verb (it uses the verb *have* as a main verb).

Have got to means the same as **have to**, it's mainly used in the present (more informal).

Got-forms are **not used in the past**: *did you have to go to church on Sundays when you were a child?*

We use **have to** to say that something is **obligatory**: *Children have to go to school*

In general, **have to** expresses **impersonal** obligation. The subject of "**have to**" is obliged or forced to act by a separate, **external power** (the Law, school rules, etc.): *In France, you have to drive on the right - In England, most schoolchildren have to wear a uniform - I have to stop smoking (doctor's order).*

We can use **have to** in **all tenses**, just like any other main verb: *I had to work yesterday - She will have to wait.*

| Must | and | have to/have got to: |
|--|------------|--|
| <i>You must exercise (I'm telling you)</i> | | <i>I have to / have got to exercise (the doctor's told me)</i> |
| <i>We must be quiet (I'm telling you)</i> | | <i>We have to / have got to be quiet (that's the rule)</i> |
| <i>I must buy the newspaper, I want to check the lottery</i> | | <i>I have to buy the paper, the boss asked me to get one</i> |

Don't have to/haven't got to/don't need to mean the **absence of necessity/not required**: *I don't have to / haven't got to go to school (there is a strike) – you don't have to wash those glasses they are clean – I didn't have to pay for the food (it was free)*

- **Should**: most commonly used to **make recommendations or give advice**. It can also be used to express obligation as well as expectation: *When you go to Rome, you should visit the Colosseum. (recommendation)*
You should focus more on your family. (advice) I really should be in the office by 7:00 AM. (obligation)
By now, they should be in Dubai. (expectation)
- **Ought to**: very similar to *should*. It follows the rules for the other modals but it is followed by the **infinitive with to**: *She ought to understand – Ought we to go now? – It oughtn't to take much longer*
Ought to and should are often interchangeable, however **should** often introduces personal advice (the speaker is giving his/her advice - **Subjective**). **Ought to** can suggest a more external law (**Objective**), or that the speaker has no power to get the thing done, or that he/she thinks it is unlikely to happen. That's why **ought to** is not usually used on printed instructions: *this shirt should be ironed with a cool iron.*

HAD BETTER – 'D BETTER:

It is used to say that something is strongly advisable. - 'd is the abbreviated form of *had*. 'd better is followed by the bare infinitive (**without to**): *You'd better tell the truth - You'd better not say a thing – We'd better leave now*

Had better is more urgent than **should** or **ought to** and has the same force as **I would advise you strongly to....** or **We must / we mustn't....**