

MUST / MUSTN'T

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Explain important rules and things that are not allowed.

1. READ: Before a photography class

Read the conversation. Notice the bold rules with must and mustn't.

Eva: Can I take photos in the gallery before the class starts?

Sam: Yes, but you **mustn't use** a flash. It can damage the paintings.

Eva: Okay. Do we need to bring our booking email?

Sam: Yes. We **must show** it at the desk. I've got mine on my phone.

Eva: Good. I'll get a coffee to take in.

Sam: Let's drink it here. We **mustn't take** drinks into the gallery.

2. GRAMMAR: Obligation and prohibition

Use must + the base verb for a strong obligation. Mustn't means something is not allowed.

Form	Meaning	Example
must + verb	It is necessary	You must wear a badge.
mustn't + verb	It is not allowed	You mustn't touch the art.
don't have to + verb	It is not necessary	You don't have to buy a map.

The form is the same for every subject: **she must**, not she musts.

Don't add **to**: **You must wait**, not must to wait. **mustn't** = must not.

You mustn't bring food = it isn't allowed. **You don't have to bring food** = it is optional.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct form. The example answer is bold: You must **wait** / to wait here.

1. He must / musts wear a helmet.

2. You must bring / brings your ticket.

3. No photos! You must / mustn't take photos.

4. We must to arrive / arrive on time.

5. She mustn't / doesn't must use her phone.

6. The map is optional. You mustn't / don't have to buy it.

7. Keep the door clear. You mustn't leave / leaving bags here.

8. Everyone needs a badge. We must / mustn't wear one.

Read each answer aloud. Check the subject, the noun or the clue.

MUST / MUSTN'T

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: At the swimming pool

Write must or mustn't. Use the pool rules to decide.

Nina: It's my first time here. Are there many rules?

Leo: A few. Everyone (1) _____ shower before going into the pool.

Nina: Can I leave my bag beside the water?

Leo: No. You (2) _____ leave bags there. We (3) _____ put them in a locker.

Nina: Okay. That sign says no running. Any other rules?

Leo: You (4) _____ run. And we (5) _____ leave the water by 7:45.

Nina: Right. That sign says we (6) _____ dive in the shallow end too.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Correct the mistake.

Example: He musts wait. **He must wait.**

1. You must to wear a badge.

2. She doesn't must touch the equipment.

3-4: Rewrite the rule using must or mustn't. Example: It is necessary to book. **You must book.**

3. It is necessary to show your ticket.

4. It is not allowed to park here.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three rules for a place you know. Use must once and mustn't twice.

Example: **You must bring your card. You mustn't eat in the library. You mustn't play loud music.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

1. Explain the rules at a library, museum or sports centre. Your partner asks one question.

2. Create rules for a class trip. Include two necessary things and one forbidden thing.

Add one optional thing with **don't have to**.

MUST / MUSTN'T

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Before a photography class

Sample target language from the conversation:

Sam: Yes, but you **mustn't use** a flash. It can damage the paintings.

Sam: Yes. We **must show** it at the desk. I've got mine on my phone.

Sam: Let's drink it here. We **mustn't take** drinks into the gallery.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. must | 2. bring |
| 3. mustn't | 4. arrive |
| 5. mustn't | 6. don't have to |
| 7. leave | 8. must |

B. COMPLETE: At the swimming pool

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| 1. must | 2. mustn't |
| 3. must | 4. mustn't |
| 5. must | 6. mustn't |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. You must wear a badge.
2. She mustn't touch the equipment.
3. You must show your ticket.
4. You mustn't park here.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: You must bring your card. You mustn't eat in the library. You mustn't play loud music.

Teacher note: Mustn't means forbidden; don't have to means optional. Must and have to can overlap in meaning. Keep rules tied to a clear context. In C2, students correct the form to express a prohibition. Avoid suggesting that mustn't means something is unnecessary.