

OBLIGATION, NECESSITY & PERMISSION

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Explain requirements, optional actions and permissions.

1. READ: The first day at a gym

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Luca: Do I **have to bring** my own towel?

Staff: Yes, but you **don't have to bring** a padlock. We provide those.

Luca: **Can I use** the pool after my workout?

Staff: Of course. You **must shower** first, though.

Luca: Anything else I should know?

Staff: You **mustn't wear** outdoor shoes in the pool area. The changing rooms are just over there.

2. GRAMMAR: Required, optional, forbidden or allowed

Have to / must express obligation; don't have to means optional; mustn't means forbidden.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Obligation	have to / must + base verb	You have to bring a towel.
No obligation	don't have to + base verb	You don't have to bring a lock.
Permission / ban	can / mustn't + base verb	You can swim. You mustn't run.

Past obligation: had to. **Questions:** Do you have to...? Does she have to...?

Mustn't and don't have to have different meanings: forbidden versus not necessary.

Can is common for permission; may is more formal.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. You must / mustn't show ID; it's required.
2. You don't have to / mustn't come; it's optional.
3. You mustn't / don't have to smoke here; it's banned.
4. Does he have / has to book?
5. Yesterday I must / had to work late.
6. Can / Do I use this chair?
7. She has / have to wear a uniform.
8. You must wear / wearing a helmet.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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

B. COMPLETE: Visiting a gallery

Complete each sentence using the expression in brackets.

1. All visitors _____ (have to) sign in at reception.
2. Jo _____ (have to) show her ID before she enters.
3. You _____ (must not) take photos in the gallery.
4. You _____ (not / have to) book the free tour; booking is optional.
5. Last week, we _____ (have to) wait outside.
6. _____ (can / I / use) the lift, please?

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite with the modal in brackets.

Example: It's necessary to book. (have to) **You have to book.**

1. It's forbidden to park here. (mustn't) _____
2. It isn't necessary to bring food. (don't have to) _____

3-4: Make questions with have to. Example: She has to book. **Does she have to book?**

3. You have to pay. _____
4. He has to sign in. _____

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three rules for a place you know: one requirement, one prohibition and one optional action.

Example: **You have to sign in. You mustn't smoke. You don't have to book.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Explain the rules of your workplace, school or gym.

Your partner asks about one requirement and requests permission to do something.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

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Sample target language from the conversation:

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Luca: **Can I use** the pool after my workout?

Staff: Of course. You **must shower** first, though.

Staff: You **mustn't wear** outdoor shoes in the pool area. The changing rooms are just over there.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. must | 2. don't have to |
| 3. mustn't | 4. have |
| 5. had to | 6. Can |
| 7. has | 8. wear |

B. COMPLETE: Visiting a gallery

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. have to | 2. has to |
| 3. mustn't / must not | 4. don't have to / do not have to |
| 5. had to | 6. Can I use |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. You mustn't park here.
2. You don't have to bring food.
3. Do you have to pay?
4. Does he have to sign in?

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: You have to wear an ID badge. You mustn't block the doors. You don't have to bring lunch.

Teacher note: Emphasise the difference between mustn't and don't have to. Can I...? asks permission; it is not an obligation question.