

Expressing Obligation

Present , past, and Future

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Expressing Obligation



Present and Future Obligation

"must" and "have to."

"You **must** arrive in good time for the meeting tomorrow. The Chairman will be there."



Present and Future Obligation - Passive Voice

- Example:

Democracy must be seen to work.

Democracy has to be seen to work

Present and Future Obligation - Grammatical Constraints

- Explanation of using "have to" when "must" is grammatically impossible.

Examples

- a. with an infinitive: It's difficult to have to stand by and watch your child in pain.
- b. with a participle: Having to listen to garage music all evening is my idea of misery.

Present and Future Obligation - No Obligation

- We use "don't have to" and "don't need to" to indicate **no obligation**.

Example:

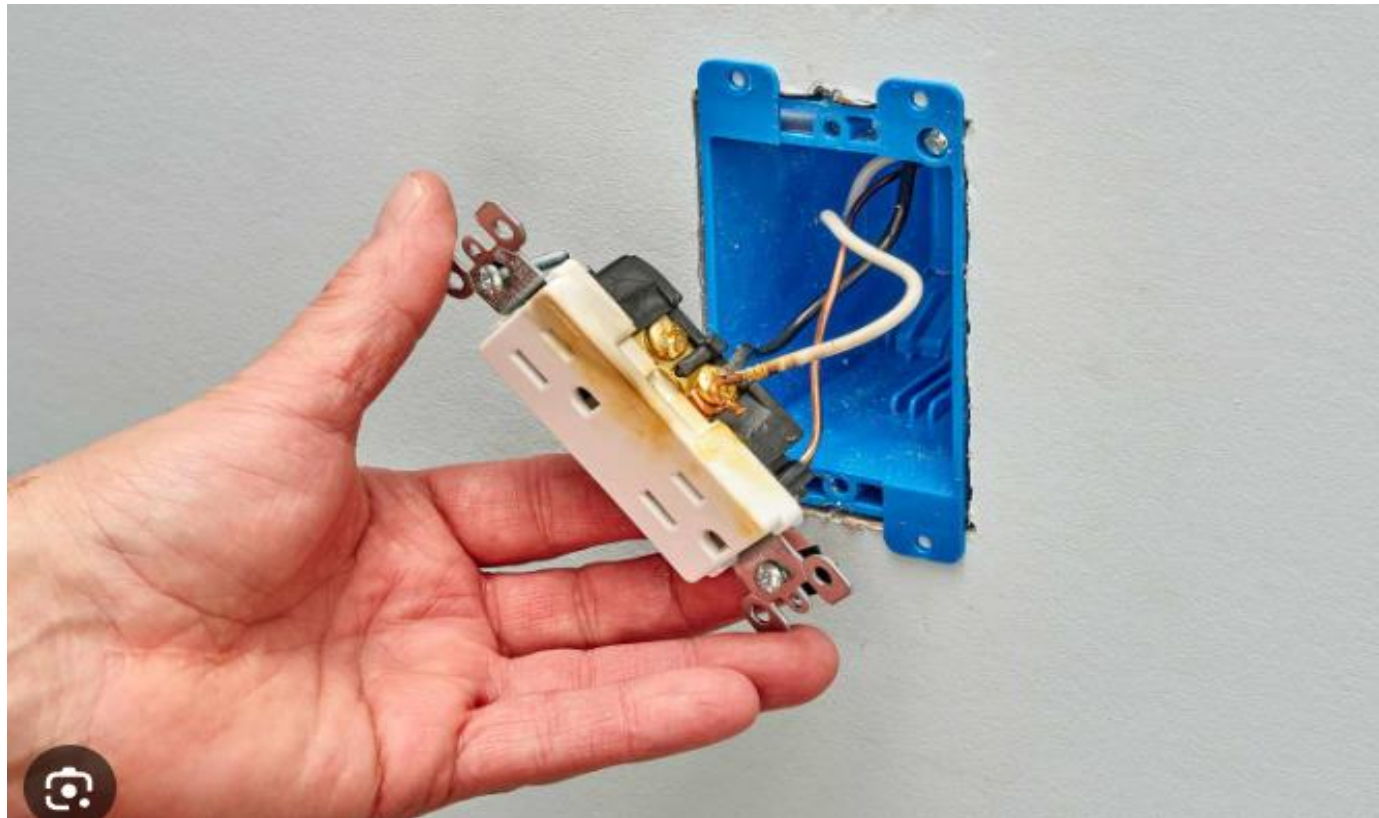
"You **don't have to** pay to visit most museums in the UK."

Present and Future Obligation - Differences Between "Have To" and "Must"

- use have to for obligations we see as outside our control, e.g. rules imposed by an authority:
 - We have to pay if we want to put luggage in the hold. =(It's a rule of the airline.)
- We often use must to express an obligation imposed by the speaker:
 - I must get up earlier - I waste so much time in the mornings.

Present and Future Obligation - Various Uses of "Must"

- to give instructions, often in writing and often with a passive verb:
The electricity **must always be switched off** before repairs are attempted.



Present and Future Obligation - Various Uses of "Must"

- to impose an obligation on oneself: I really **must** try to get fitter.



Present and Future Obligation - Various Uses of "Must"

Must is commonly used

- to give a strong personal opinion: I believe people must vote at elections.



Present and Future Obligation - Formality Check

- We do not often use you must for obligation in **face-to-face** conversation as it can seem **impolite**:
- [You must listen to what I'm saying.] Please listen to what I'm saying.
- It is more commonly used in **talking to children** or by people in authority:
- You must always look both ways before you cross the road. You must focus more.

Multiple-Choice Exercise

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Must vs. Have To

Choose the correct option (A or B) to complete each sentence with either "must" or "have to" to express the appropriate obligation.

They _____ be quiet during the presentation; it's a rule in the library.

- A) must
- B) have to

They _____ be quiet during the presentation; it's a rule in the library.

- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: B) have to

- The teacher said, "You _____ submit your essays by Friday."
- A) must
- B) have to

- The teacher said, "You _____ submit your essays by Friday."
- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: A) must

- We _____ arrive at the airport at least two hours before our flight.
- A) must
- B) have to

- We _____ arrive at the airport at least two hours before our flight.
- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: B) have to

- I _____ remind myself to call my mom on her birthday; it's important.
- A) must
- B) have to

- I _____ remind myself to call my mom on her birthday; it's important.
- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: A) must

- The sign says, "All visitors _____ check in at the front desk."
- A) must
- B) have to

- The sign says, "All visitors _____ check in at the front desk."
- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: B) have to

- The doctor said, "You _____ take this medicine every six hours."
- A) must
- B) have to

- The doctor said, "You _____ take this medicine every six hours."
- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: A) must

- We _____ finish our work before the deadline. There's no other option.
- A) must
- B) have to

- We _____ finish our work before the deadline. There's no other option.
- A) must
- B) have to
- Correct Answer: B) have to

Present and Future Obligation - Formality Check

- We use **have got** to for external obligation like **have to**, but it is more **informal** than have to and more common **in speech** than in writing.
- a) - What time **have** we **got to** be at the airport tomorrow?

Present and Future Obligation - Formality Check

- a) - Claim forms have got to be date-stamped before payment will be made.
- b) -Claim forms **have to be** date-stamped before payment will be made



Present and Future Obligation - Formality Check

- We often use **should** and **ought to** as they express a subjective **(often moral) obligation felt by the speaker**, but the obligation is weaker than with **must**:
- You should treat your neighbours with more respect.

Present and Future Obligation - Formality Check

➤ Questions with **ought to** are rare and formal. We prefer to use **should**

a) Sentence form: **Ought** we to leave a tip?

b) Question form: **Should** we leave a tip? ✓

Past Obligation and necessity

Past Obligation and necessity

- Using "Had To"

- The staff and students at the university had to evacuate the campus.



_Because of Steve's career. we've had to move twice in the last year.

Past Obligation - Unfulfilled Obligations

- We use should/ought to +have+ past participle for an unfulfilled obligation in the past:

_ really **should have/ought to have registered** before the term started.
(But you didn't ...)

PAST Obligation - No Obligation

- We use didn't have to/didn't need to when there is no obligation in the past:
- You **didn't have to/didn't need to** finish the washing-up. I could have done it.

Past Obligation - No Obligation

- Notice these two past forms of need; they have different meanings:

didn't need vs needn't have taken

Present and Future Obligation - No Obligation

didn't need

We **didn't need** to take warm sweaters, as the weather was so good.

=(We don't know if the speaker took warm sweaters or not.)



needn't have taken

We **needn't have taken** warm sweaters. We could have used the space in our luggage for **more books!**

= (We know that the speaker took warm sweaters.)



Other Ways of Expressing Obligation

- We can use **be to** for an order from a person **in authority**
- The members of the jury **are to report** to the judge's chambers immediately.
- We use **be supposed to** for a lesser obligation and one that is frequently ignored:



Other Ways of Expressing Obligation

Lesser Obligations - "Be Supposed To"

- We're **supposed to** leave our textbooks at school, but we often take them home.
- .

Other Ways of Expressing Obligation

Legal Context - "Be Liable To"

We use **be liable to** for obligation (often in a legal context):

- Anyone causing damage will **be liable** to pay for all necessary repairs.

Formal expression "Be Obligated To" and "Be Required To"

- We re obliged to contribute twenty-five percent of the costs of the repairs.
- Motorists are required by law to wear seat belts in the European Union.



Obligation in the future

- We can use must and should to express obligation in the future:
 - I really **must** get to the dentist next week. Yot1 should pay the amount due by 25th October.
- If the obligation is external, we use **will have** to or **will need** to:
 - The children **will have** to stay at home next week while the school is closed for building work. We'll **need** to get our visas sorted out or we won't be able to stop over in the States.
- We use **won't have to, won't need to** or **needn't** when there is no **future obligation**:
 - With this food processor, you **won't have to/won't need to/needn't** peel or chop any more.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPTION

- They _____ finished their project on time, but they procrastinated.

A) Must – B) have to – C) should have

You _____ wear a helmet when riding a bike on this road.

A) Must B) have to

- I _____ called my parents on their anniversary, but I got caught up at work.
- **A) Must – B) have to – C) should have**

- They _____ finished their project on time, but they procrastinated.

Must – have to - **should have**

You _____ wear a helmet when riding a bike on this road.

A) must

B) have to

- I _____ called my parents on their anniversary, but I got caught up at work.
- Must – have to - **should have**

Thank you