OBLIGATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

When we want to express permission, responsibilities, obligation or prohibition we use modal verbs.

HAVE TO AND MUST are used to express obligation.

DON’T HAVE TO is used to express that something is not required and MUSTN’T is used to express prohibition.
MUST

- MUST and MUSTN’T are the same for all persons

- We use MUST when we think it is important to do an action or we give people orders.

- You MUST be home by eleven

- She MUST tidy up her room every day
MUST

- We use MUST when the obligation comes from the speaker.
- I must go to the doctor, I don’t feel well.
- I must have my homework ready tonight.
- I must stop smoking.
**HAVE TO**

- **We use HAVE TO** when the obligation comes from someone else, not the speaker; for an action that is necessary because of rules.

- **We HAVE TO** be at the airport three hours before the flight leaves.

- **At work I HAVE TO** wear a uniform.

- **My father HAS TO** pay the rent every month.
MUSTN’T

- MUSTN’T is used to say that something is against the rules or against the law.

- You MUSTN’T smoke at school.

- You MUSTN’T use your telephone on a plane
DON’T HAVE TO

- DON’T HAVE TO is used to show that there is no obligation.

- In this restaurant you DON’T HAVE TO wear a tie.

- My brother DOESN’T HAVE TO wear uniform at his school.

- We DON’T HAVE TO get up early on weekends.
EXERCISES

Choose the correct modal verb to fill in the spaces in blank. Must-have to, don’t have to, Mustn’t

1. You _____ come to the meeting, but it will be nice if you are there. (mustn’t- don’t have to)

2. You _____ start saving money if you want to retire in a few years. (must- have to)

3. We ________ to visit the doctor every year because the Social Security requires it. (must- have to)

4. I _____ call my dad every day. (must- have to)
EXERCISES

5. My brother ______ wear a tie in his work, I do. (mustn’t – doesn’t have to)

6. You _____ eat healthier and stop smoking, you will feel better. (must- have to)

7. I _____ study tonight, my exam is tomorrow. (must- have to)

8. People ______ drink and drive cars. It is prohibited (mustn’t - don’t have to)
9. John can’t come because he ____ work tomorrow. (must- has to)

10. We ______ speak when the teacher is speaking. (mustn’t- don’t have to)

11. I can hear you. You ______ shout. (must’t - don’t have to)

12. She has a big problem. We ______ help her. (must- have to)

13. You _____ sing a document without reading it first. (mustn’t – don’t have to)
ANSWER KEY

1. don’t have to
2. must
3. have to
4. must
5. don’t have to
6. must
7. must
8. mustn’t
9. has to
10. mustn’t
11. don’t have to
12. must
13. mustn’t