

Modals of Obligation

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of *must*, *mustn't*, *have to*, or *don't have to*.

1. Look at the sign! You _____ jump into that forbidden area.
2. You _____ call him tonight. You can speak to him face to face tomorrow.
3. You _____ submit your application on time.
4. Mary _____ go to the dentist immediately. She's in great pain.
5. You _____ buy a ticket there to get into the beach. It's a historical site.
6. Gerry _____ get a visa to go to Nepal. He can't go there in another way.
7. She _____ buy another kettle. I've just repaired the old one.
8. My dentist says to our daughter that she _____ brush her teeth twice a day.
9. You _____ cut your hair. It's really long.
10. You _____ cheat in the exam.



Answer Key



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Teacher's Copy

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No	Question	Correct Answer	Feedback
1	Look at the sign! You jump into that forbidden area.	mustn't	<i>We can check our answer by substituting "mustn't" with "don't do it.": Don't jump into that forbidden area. And we see that the meaning doesn't change.</i>
2	You call him tonight. You can speak to him face to face tomorrow.	don't have to	<i>We can check our answer by substituting "don't have to" with "mustn't". "Mustn't" suggests that calling him is forbidden, which is not true in this context. It's also possible to speak face to face the next day.</i>
3	You submit your application on time.	have to	<i>We are talking about a rule that is not imposed by us. This is an external obligation.</i>
4	Mary ... go to the dentist immediately. She is in great pain.	must	<i>This is a strong obligation for Mary. There isn't any rule or law, which makes it an external obligation for Mary. However, we can use "have to" as an external obligation imposed by the speaker, though "must" suits better in this context when there's strong advice.</i>
5	You buy a ticket there to get into the beach. It's a historical site.	have to	<i>There's an external obligation here. Buying the tickets for the beach is an obligation coming from the authorities.</i>
6	Gerry get a visa to go to Nepal. He can't go there in another way.	has to	<i>There's an external obligation here. The country Nepal requests visas from foreigners to get into the country.</i>
7	She buy another kettle. I've just repaired the old one.	doesn't have to	<i>The necessity to buy another kettle has been fulfilled by the repair. There is no need to buy a new kettle.</i>
8	My dentist says to our daughter that shebrush her teeth twice a day.	has to	<i>There is an external obligation imposed by the dentist.</i>
9	You cut your hair. It's really long.	must	<i>This is an obligation imposed by your friend, not by an authority. This is a piece of strong advice. "Have to" is also possible in this sentence when an external obligation is considered. However, "must" suits better with strong advice.</i>
10	You cheat in the exam.	mustn't	<i>We are talking about a prohibition here. Also, this can be considered as strong advice.</i>