

MODEL VERBS FOR LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS: OBLIGATION, DUTY, NECESSITY, ABILITY

1: OBLIGATION /DUTY or a NECESSITY

? Question

We usually use **HAVE To** with the auxiliary verb: **To do**

Do I /we / they **have to**?

go to the dentists?

Does he **have to**?

go to work on Sundays ?

What do I **have to**?

do to get a driving licence?

Expressing an obligation, duty or a necessity

MUST = Expresses a **personal opinion** that something is necessary

HAVE TO Expresses a rule a fact, an **impersonal idea** (3rd person has **decided**), that something is necessary

DO NOT HAVE TO = Expresses personal ideas and impersonal facts that something is **NOT** necessary

Yes, **they must** go to the dentists

Yes, **he has to** go to work on Sunday

No, **you don't have to** go to the dentists

You have to pass a theoretical and a practical exam

GRAMMAR NOTE:

Modal Verb + BARE INFINITIVE

You **must** study a little every day?

GRAMMAR NOTE:

Musn't and Don't Have To: Have completely different meanings:

Musn't – it is necessary that you **don't do** something.

E.g. 'You **must** keep it a secret'

Doesn't have to – it is not necessary, but you can if you want to.

E.g. 'You **don't have to** tell me'.

GRAMMAR NOTE: MUST and HAVE TO

You can use **MUST** with the **present** and the **future** BUT not with the past.

1. We **must** go now -present
2. We **must** leave tomorrow – future

You can use **HAVE TO** with all **tense formations**

1. I **had to** go to hospital yesterday – simple past
2. **Have you ever had to** go to hospital? – past perfect

GRAMMAR NOTE:

Can is also used to say that something is **possible**.

E.g. Q: **Can** you go to the beach? A: Yes, I **can**.

For the future : **Can** or **Will be able** to are possible.

E.g. Yes, I **can** / **will be able to** go out **next** Friday.

2: ABILITY

? Asking about ability

What languages **can** you / they?

speak?

play the guitar?

Can you / they?

FOR THE PAST:

***Could** you / they?

play the piano when you were 6?

***Were** you / they **able to**?

Expressing ability

I **can**

speak 3 languages

No, **they can't**

play the guitar

Yes, I **am able to**

play the guitar (To be Able to do something is possible. But not common)

FOR THE PAST:

No, I **couldn't**

play the guitar when I was 6

Yes, I **was able to**