



Modals of Obligation — B1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
virtuousenglishacademy.com/grammar/b1/modals-obligation-necessity-exercises

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. All passengers ____ show a valid ticket at the barrier.
A) must B) should C) might D) can
2. I ____ wear a suit at work — the dress code is casual.
A) mustn't B) don't have to C) shouldn't D) can't
3. You ____ tell anyone about this. It is strictly confidential.
A) don't have to B) mustn't C) needn't D) shouldn't have
4. Yesterday I ____ work until nine to finish the accounts.
A) must B) had to C) have to D) must have
5. What is the difference between 'must' and 'have to'?
A) No difference
B) Must is usually the speaker's own view, have to comes from outside
C) Have to is stronger
D) Must is only for the past
6. The lights are off, so they ____ be out.
A) must B) have to C) should D) need
7. She ____ be at the office — I saw her leave an hour ago.
A) mustn't B) can't C) doesn't have to D) needn't
8. You ____ bring anything to the party — everything is provided.
A) mustn't B) needn't C) can't D) shouldn't
9. Which sentence forbids something?
A) You don't have to park here. B) You needn't park here.
C) You mustn't park here. D) You don't need to park here.
10. Do I ____ pay in advance?
A) must B) have to C) ought D) should to

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. You _____ wear a helmet on this construction site.

2. We _____ have to book — the restaurant is never full on Mondays.
3. You _____ touch that switch under any circumstances.
4. Last winter we _____ to cancel three flights because of the snow.
5. The kitchen light is on, so somebody _____ be home.
6. That _____ be Sarah — she is still in Australia.
7. You _____ bring a towel; the hotel provides them.
8. _____ I have to fill in this form as well?

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. sign / All / must / the / register. / visitors

State a firm rule at an entrance.

-
2. if / You / have / are / busy. / to / come / not / you / do

Remove an obligation politely.

-
3. door. / must / You / open / not / that

Forbid something outright.

-
4. We / had / hours / to / a / taxi. / three / wait / for

Describe a past necessity.

-
5. after / must / He / exhausted / journey. / that / be

Deduce something from the evidence.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **A) must** — Must states a firm requirement, standard in official regulations.
2. **B) don't have to** — Don't have to means the obligation does not exist, which is what a casual dress code means.
3. **B) mustn't** — Mustn't is a prohibition: the action is forbidden, not merely unnecessary.
4. **B) had to** — Must has no past form, so past obligation is expressed with had to.
5. **B) Must is usually the speaker's own view, have to comes from outside** — Must expresses internal necessity; have to points at an external rule or authority.
6. **A) must** — Must also expresses confident deduction: the evidence leaves no other conclusion.
7. **B) can't** — Can't is the negative of deductive must. Mustn't would mean she is forbidden to be there.
8. **B) needn't** — Needn't removes the necessity without forbidding anything.
9. **C) You mustn't park here.** — Only mustn't is a prohibition; the other three simply say parking is not required.
10. **B) have to** — Must cannot form a question with do. Have to behaves like an ordinary verb and can.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **must** — Must states a firm safety requirement.
2. **don't** — Don't have to removes the obligation rather than forbidding the action.
3. **mustn't** — Mustn't is a prohibition, not an absence of necessity.
4. **had** — Must has no past form, so past obligation uses had to.
5. **must** — Must draws a confident conclusion from the available evidence.
6. **can't** — Can't is the negative of deductive must.
7. **needn't** — Needn't removes the necessity without forbidding anything.
8. **Do** — Have to forms questions with do, unlike must.

C. Sentence building

1. **All visitors must sign the register.**
2. **You do not have to come if you are busy.**
3. **You must not open that door.**
4. **We had to wait three hours for a taxi.**
5. **He must be exhausted after that journey.**