

Must, Have to,  
Should (obligation)

# Obligation/Necessity: *Have to/ must* + infinitive

- *Must* and *have to* have a very similar meaning.

*Have to* is more common for **general**, external obligations.

For example rules and laws.

*Must* is more common for **specific** (i.e. on one occasion) or **personal** obligations.

Compare:

*I have to wear a shirt and tie at work.* (It is the rule in this company)

*I must buy a new shirt –this one is too old now.* (It is my own decision)

- You **have to** wear a seatbelt in a car.
- **Do you have to** work on Saturdays?
- I **must** remember to phone Emily tonight – it is her birthday.
- You **must** be on time for class tomorrow – there is a test.

I **had to** wear a uniform at my primary school.

I **will have to** get up early tomorrow. My interview is at 9:00.

- *Have to* is a normal verb and it exists in all tenses.
- *Must* is a modal verb. The only forms are *must* and *mustn't*.
- You can also use *have to* or *must* for strong recommendations, e.g. *you have to /must see that film-it is fantastic*.

➤ **No obligation/necessity:** *don't have to*

You **don't have to** pay for the tickets. They are free.

➤ **Prohibition:** *mustn't*

You **mustn't** eat that cake – it is for the party.

You **mustn't** touch that. It is dangerous.

➤ *Don't have to* and *mustn't* are completely different.

Compare:

You **mustn't** drive along this street. (=it is prohibited, against the law)

You **don't have to** drive – we can get a train. (= you can drive if you want to but it is not necessary.)

## Advice or opinion *should / shouldn't* + infinitive

➤ *Should* is not as strong as *must / have to*. We use it to say if we think something is the right or wrong to do.

➤ *Should* is a modal verb. The only forms are *should and shouldn't*.

You **should** take warm cloths with you to Dublin. It might be cold at night.

I think the government **should** do something about unemployment.

Complete the sentences with *have to*, *don't have to*, *must*, *mustn't*, *should*, or *shouldn't*.

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ drive on the right in Europe (except in the UK).
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ talk loudly on your mobile in a restaurant. It's bad manners.
3. You \_\_\_\_\_ pay to get into the museum – it's free.
4. There are hungry crocodiles in that river. You \_\_\_\_\_ swim in it!
5. I need your advice. Where do you think we \_\_\_\_\_ stay in Oxford, in a hotel or a bed and breakfast?
6. Great! It's a holiday tomorrow – we \_\_\_\_\_ go to work.
7. It's a great film. You \_\_\_\_\_ see it.

Read *cultural shock* and mark the sentence which says what the article is about.

- The English have very good manners.
- The English and Russian idea of good manners is different.
- The English are polite but insincere.
- The Russian are very rude and unfriendly.

## Cultural Shock

Good manners are always good manners. That's what Miranda Ingram, who is English, thought until she married Alexander, who is Russian.

When I first met Alexander and he said to me, in Russian, '*Nalei mnye chai – pour me some tea*', I got angry and answered, 'pour it yourself'. Translated into English, without '*Could you....?*' and a '*please*', it sounded really rude to me. But in Russian it was fine – you don't have to add any polite word.

However, when I took Alexander home to meet my parents in the UK, I had to give him an intense course in *pleases* and *thank yous* (which he thought were completely unnecessary), and to teach him to say *sorry* even if someone else stepped on his toe, and to smile, smile, smile.

Another thing that Alexander just couldn't understand was why people said things like, 'would you mind passing me the salt, please?' He said, 'It is only the salt, for goodness sake! What do you say in English if you want a *real* favour?'

He also watched in amazement when, at a dinner party in England, we swallowed some really disgusting food and I said, 'Mmm ... delicious'. In Russia, people are much more direct. The first time Alexander's mother came to our house for dinner in Moscow, she told me that my soup needed more flavouring. Afterwards when we argued about it my husband said, 'Do you want your dinner guests to lie?'

Alexander complained that in England he felt 'like the village idiot' because in Russia if you smile all the time people think you are mad. In fact, this exactly what my husband's friends thought of me the first time I went to Russia because I smiled at everyone, and translated every '*please*' and '*thank you*' from English to Russian!

At home we now have an agreement. If we are speaking Russian, he can say 'pour me some tea', and just make a noise like a grunt when I give it to him. But when we are speaking English, he has to add a 'please', a 'thank you' and a smile.

Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).  
Correct the wrong ones

- 1. Miranda got angry because her husband asked her to make the tea.
- 2. Miranda had to teach him to say sorry when something wasn't his fault.
- 3. Her husband thinks English people are too polite.
- 4. Alexander wasn't surprised when people said they liked the food at the dinner party.
- 5. the food was delicious.
- 6. Miranda didn't mind when her mother-in-law criticized her cooking.
- 7. Alexander thought his mother was right.
- 8. In Russia it is not normal to smile all the time when you speak to someone.
- 9. His Russian friends thought Miranda was very friendly because she smiled a lot.
- 10. Alexander never says thank you for his tea when he and Miranda are speaking in Russian.

# Complete the phrases with the missing verb.

1. .... on someone's foot or toe (by accident)
2. .... some wine into a glass or tea into a cup.
3. ....a noise, like a grunt
4. ....food (so that it goes from your mouth to your stomach)
5. ....a word from English into Russian