



Remember to watch the video first! Then read the conversation between Sophie and Jun, a student who Sophie met on her travels. Sophie is helping Jun understand *have to*, *must* and *should*.



**Grammar
Snacks**

We use ***have to* / *must* / *should*** + infinitive to talk about obligation, things that are necessary to do, or to give advice about things that are a good idea to do.

Must and *have to* are both used for obligation and are often quite similar. They are both followed by the infinitive.

*I **must go** now. / I **have to go** now.*



Sophie

Are these exactly the same?

Jun

Well, almost. We often use *must* for more personal opinions about what it is necessary to do, and *have to* for what somebody in authority has said it is necessary to do.

*I **must** remember to get a present for Daisy. (my opinion)*
*You **have to** look after their hair regularly. (dog experts say so)*
*Do you **have to** wear a tie for school? (asking about school rules)*



Which verb do people use more?

Have to is more frequent in conversation; *must* is used more in formal writing, for example in written notices.

*Passengers **must** fasten their seat-belts.*



Do they change in form for *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, etc.?

Have changes in the third person singular (*he/she/it has*); but *must* doesn't change. It's a modal verb and modals don't change.



I think I've heard *have got to*. Is that correct?

Yes, we use both *have got to*, for obligation, and *had better*, for advice, a lot in speaking.

*You've **got to** be careful with a cat.*
*You'd **better** get something a bit quieter.*
*I'd **better** go – I **mustn't** miss the helicopter!*



So they're not used in formal writing?

No. There's something very important about *must* and *have to*. The positive forms are very similar in meaning, but the negative forms are completely different.

*You **mustn't** forget ...*
 (don't forget – you have no choice)
*If you **don't have to** see him again.*
 (there is no obligation to see him again, but you have a choice)



Umm, I'm still a bit confused ...

Here's an example you can remember:

*In a non-smoking area you **mustn't smoke**, but in a smoking area you **don't have to smoke** but you can if you want to.*



Ah! Right, I *mustn't* forget that.

No, you *mustn't*! OK, let's look at advice, telling people what you think is a good idea. We use *should* for advice, or making suggestions, and *must* for strong advice.

*You **must** go for a walk with the dog at least once a day.*
*Maybe you **should** go for a coffee or lunch and see how you feel?*
*You **shouldn't** leave it on the street.*





I think I've heard people use *should* in other ways, like '*he should be here in a minute*' – that's not advice, is it?

No, that's talking about what is likely or probable. We'll look at that use another day. We use modal verbs in different ways.



I see. So I *should* think about one use at a time.

Yes, exactly. You *mustn't* get confused by too many uses at once.



Watch the video on our website!

