

Obligation (*must*), prohibition (*mustn't*) and commands

A Starting activities

1 You've got to take a test

Obligation and prohibition with *have to* and *mustn't*

Work as a class. There is a new learner in your class. Tell the new learner what to do and what not to do. Make sentences with *have to* and *mustn't*.

Examples: *You have to work hard. You mustn't speak your own language during the pairwork.*

2 The Spencer family (Part 1)

Obligation and prohibition with *must*, *mustn't* and the negative imperative

Work in pairs. Mr and Mrs Spencer have a son, Terry, aged twelve and a daughter, Tracy, aged fifteen. They have a lot of problems with both of their children, who never do what their parents want them to. Say sentences that the Spencers could say to their children. Use *must*, *mustn't*, and the negative imperative.

Examples: *Don't try to start the car. You mustn't use my make-up.*



3 The Spencer family (Part 2)

Obligation and prohibition with *ought to* and *ought not to*

Work in pairs. Terry (aged twelve) and Tracy (aged fifteen) are having a lot of problems with Mr and Mrs Spencer, their parents. Terry and Tracy often remind Mr and Mrs Spencer of their duties as parents. Say sentences with *ought to* and *ought not to* that Terry and Tracy could say to their parents.

Examples: *You ought to give me more pocket money. You ought not to stop me wearing fashionable clothes.*



B Grammar guide

1 Obligation

- Use *must*, followed by the infinitive without *to*, for present or future obligation only. There is no past form of *must*. Instead, we use *had to* for the past.
 - Use *must* when you have the authority yourself.
You must go to your room. (Because I say so.)
I must give up smoking. (It's too expensive for me.)
 - Use *have to* or *have got to* when someone else has the authority.
You have to go to your room. (I heard your mother tell you to.)
I have got to give up smoking. (My doctor told me to.)
You can use *must* here but *have got to* is more usual.
 - Use *have to* (NOT ~~*have got to*~~) for repeated, general obligation, especially with a one-word adverb of frequency like *often* or *sometimes*.
I have to catch the early train to get to work on time.
I often have to do all the typing myself.
For obligation on a single occasion *have got to* is used more often than *have to*.
I can't come. I've got to repair the car.
Have got to often sounds more informal than *have to*.
 - Use *ought to* when the obligation is a duty. (It is the right thing to do.)
You ought to go and see your grandparents more often.
NOTE *Ought to* is often used to say that although something is the right thing to do, people are not doing it.
We ought to drive cars that use less petrol. (But we don't.)
The negative of *ought to* is *ought not to*.
 - *Be supposed to* is usually used when the obligation comes from an arrangement or a regulation. Like *ought to*, it often means that someone is not doing what they should.
You are supposed to queue over there. (But you aren't.)

2 Prohibition

- Use *mustn't* or the negative imperative (*Don't do it.*) to talk about prohibition.
You mustn't eat with your mouth full.
Don't open my briefcase.
- *Be not to* is a strong prohibition (when you have a lot of authority or you are angry).
You are not to go there again, is that clear?
- Don't use *don't have to* to talk about prohibition. *Don't have to* means that something is not necessary.
You don't have to have a visa to come to Britain from an EC country. (A visa is not necessary.)
You don't have to come with us. (You can come, but only if you want to.)

3 Commands

- Use the positive imperative for commands.
Come here!
- *Be + to* can be used for strong commands (when you have a lot of authority).
You are to be back here by three o'clock.

C Activities

1 A visitor from Mars

Obligation and prohibition with *must*, *have to* and *mustn't*

- 1 Work in pairs. Suppose an alien from another planet has landed on earth and is living with you. Imagine the alien following you around to learn about life on earth and doing everything that you do. Explain the 'rules' in your daily life to the alien. Say as many obligation and prohibition sentences as you can.
Examples: *You have to pay to go on a bus. You mustn't put your shoes on before your socks.*
- 2 Work as a class. Think of your daily routine. Take turns to tell the alien something about a typical day in your life, including as many of your obligation and prohibition sentences as you realistically can.
Examples: *Every morning I have a shower. You must turn the shower off after you have used it. I have bread and butter for breakfast. You mustn't put the butter on the bread with your fingers.*

2 A plan for the environment

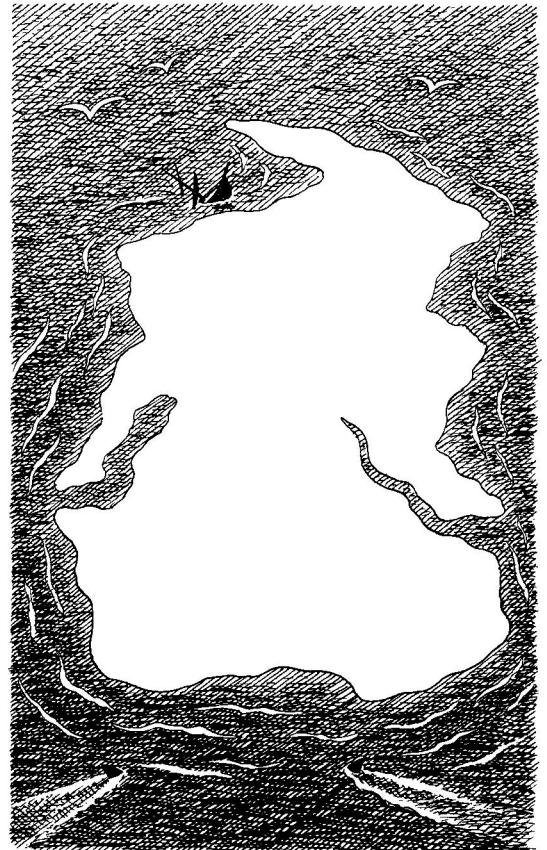
Obligation and prohibition

- 1 Work as a class. Suggest five or six areas where we ought to improve our environment. Think of things like the threat to the ozone layer, air and water pollution, and threats to animals. Make sentences with *must* and *ought to*, like this: *We must stop using cars so much. I think we ought to do something about the destruction of the rain forests.*
- 2 Work in pairs or groups. Choose one or two of the areas you suggested. Discuss the areas and come up with some ideas for improvements using as many sentences with *must*, *must not*, *have to*, *have got to*, *ought to* and *ought not to* as you can.
Examples: *Let's stop making cars and then people will have to go to work by bus. We've got to find ways of using plastic to make furniture so that we use less wood.*

3 The desert island: laws of living together

Obligation, prohibition and commands

- 1 Work as a class. Your class and your teacher are shipwrecked on a desert island together. Decide together what is on the island (for example, trees, other vegetation, wild animals, a stream) and add the details to the drawing of the island below. Decide what has been saved from the shipwreck (not a boat or a two-way radio!).



- 2 Work in groups or pairs. Write ten 'laws of living together' using *must*, *must not* and *have to*, *be + (not) to* and the negative imperative, like this: *Anyone who kills an animal must share it with the rest of the group. You are not to hide food.*
- 3 Change groups or pairs and compare your 'laws of living together' with other groups or pairs. Try to agree on the ten best laws.

D Accuracy practice

1 Complete the sentences. Use *must*, *have to*, *had to* or *have got to*.

- 1 Your staff keep forgetting to lock the office door when they leave at night. 'You _____ all remember to lock the door when you leave.'
- 2 You are telling a friend about your expedition to the Antarctic last year. 'We _____ melt the snow to get drinking water.'
- 3 In Sally's job a lot of work is done in the evenings. 'She often _____ stay late at the office.'
- 4 A small boy is late for school because he keeps catching the nine o'clock bus. His teacher is speaking. 'In future you _____ catch an earlier bus, is that clear?'
- 5 You have just been to the doctor. 'I'm overweight. I _____ give up fried food.'
- 6 You and a friend want to change some money. You are explaining what to do. 'We _____ fill in these forms and then queue over there.'

2 Complete the sentences. Use *ought to*, *ought not to*, *be supposed to* or *be not supposed to*.

- 1 It's your own fault that you were injured. You _____ wear special glasses that protect your eyes when you use that machine.
- 2 I think Derek really _____ help his mother more. She is nearly eighty.
- 3 Is this the mail room? I _____ pick up a parcel from here.
- 4 People _____ drink at all if they are going to drive a car.
- 5 You _____ take the question paper away with you. You _____ hand it in after the exam.
- 6 They _____ make so much noise every night when they come out of the youth club.

3 Write prohibition sentences in these situations. Use the negative imperative (*Don't do it.*) or *must not* (both are possible).

Example: The boss thinks that the staff at the office keep taking paper without asking her first.

Don't/You must not keep taking paper without asking me first.

- 1 A doctor thinks her patient is overweight because he eats fried food.
- 2 A driving instructor thinks that the learner driver she is teaching drove through the town centre too quickly.
- 3 A tour guide wants a group of tourists to stay on the bus until he has got the tickets.
- 4 The cooker gets hot when you do the cooking. You are talking to a three-year-old child.