Modals

⇨ **Have to / Must**

> In English, "**have to**" and "**must**" are both used to express **obligation** or **necessity**. However, there are some differences between them that you should know.

1. "**Have to**" is used to express an **external obligation**, while "**must**" is used to express an **internal obligation**. **For example**:

   ☻ I have to go to work today. (**External obligation** - probably because of a job requirement)

   ☻ I must study for my exam. (**Internal obligation** - probably because the speaker feels it's necessary)

2. "**Must**" is often used to express a **stronger obligation** or necessity than "**have to**". **For example:**

   ☻ I must finish this report by tomorrow. (**Strong obligation** - the speaker feels it's extremely necessary)

   ☻ I have to finish this report by tomorrow. (**Obligation**, but not as strong)

3. "**Must**" is often used in **formal** or **legal contexts**. **For example:**

   ☻ Employees must wear safety helmets in the workplace. (**Formal/ legal obligation**)

   ☻ I must inform you that your contract has been terminated. (**Formal/ legal obligation**)

4. "**Have to**" can be used in **all tenses**, while "**must**" is generally only used in the **present tense**. **For example:**

   ☻ I had to work late last night. **(Past tense)**

   ☻ We will have to be there early. **(Future tense)**

5. In negative sentences, "**must not**" is used to express **prohibition**, while "**don't have to**" is used to express **lack of obligation**. **For example:**

    ● You must not smoke in here. (**Prohibition** - it's not allowed)

    ● You don't have to wear a tie to the party. (**Lack of obligation** - it's not necessary)