ESOL E2 - Using ‘must’ and ‘have to’

# of 14 – Welcome

Welcome to this session talking about rules and things that are necessary.

In this session you will learn when and how to use the following words and phrases.

* Must.
* Have to.
* Musn’t.
* Don’t have to.

# of 14 – ‘Must’ and ‘have to’

We use ‘must’ and ‘have to’ to talk about rules and things that are necessary. For example:

“Does Marianna **have to** wear her school uniform on the trip?”

“Yes, all the children in the class **have to** wear their school uniform.”

“What time does the trip start?”

“The coach leaves at 9:30 but the children **must** be at school by 9 o’clock.”

# of 14 – Talking about rules

When you talk about rules you can use either ‘must’ or ‘have to’.

For example:

* You **must** have a passport to travel abroad.
* You **have to** have a passport to travel abroad.

Both of these sentences mean the same thing.

Here is another example:

“Do I **have to** complete an application form?”

“Yes, everybody **must** complete one.”

# of 14 – Talking about something you think is necessary

When you talk about something you *think* is necessary, you use ‘must’.

For example:

* I **must** work hard if I’m going to pass my exams.
* You **must** clean your room. It’s very messy.

Here is another example:

“Why are you so stressed?”

“Because I haven’t finished my homework. I **must** start doing it earlier.”

# of 14 – Conjugating the verb correctly

When you use ‘have to’, make sure you remember to conjugate the verb correctly. Also watch out for contractions. See below for some examples.

* I have = I’ve.
* You have = You’ve.
* He has = He’s.
* She has = She’s.
* It has = It’s.
* We have = We’ve.
* They have = They’ve.

# of 14 – Questions

When you ask about rules it is more usual to use ‘have to’ than ‘must’, although both are correct.

For example:

* **Must** I go to college today?
* Do I **have to** go to the party?
* Do **I have to** pay that much?
* Do I **have to** sit there?

# of 14 – Two verbs together

Make sure you watch out for these common errors:

1. Do not add an ‘s’ to must for he and she.

For example:

“She musts do the washing up” is incorrect.

“She must do the washing up” is correct.

1. Do not use ‘to’ after must.

For example:

“He must to work harder” is incorrect.

“He must work harder” is correct.

# of 14 – ‘Mustn’t’ and ‘don’t have to’

‘Mustn’t’ and ‘don’t have to’ have different meanings.

We use ‘mustn’t’ (or ‘must not’) when there is a rule that tells you not to do something.

For example:

* You **mustn’t** smoke in the restaurant.
* You **mustn’t** wear your shoes in the yoga studio.

We use ‘don’t have to’ (or ‘do not have to’) when something is not necessary.

For example:

* You **don’t have to** eat that now.
* You **don’t have to** vacuum today.

# of 14 – Question 1

Which of the sentences below is grammatically correct?

1. Try harder you must.
2. You must try harder.

Answer: The correct answer is 2. “You must try harder” is grammatically correct.

# of 14 – Question 2

True or false: the statement below grammatically correct.

“You have to show your bus ticket to the driver.”

Answer: **True**. “You have to show your bus ticket to the driver” is grammatically correct.

# of 14 – Question 3

Which of the sentences below is grammatically correct?

1. You don’t have to do all of the washing up now.
2. You now don’t have to do all of the washing up.

Answer: The correct answer is 1. “You don’t have to do all of the washing up now” is grammatically correct.

# of 14 – Question 4

True or false: the statement below grammatically correct.

“You don’t have to do your homework but you must do it now.”

Answer: **False**. “You must do your homework but you don’t have to do it now” is grammatically correct.

# of 14 – Question 4

True or false: the statement below grammatically correct.

“So rude you don’t have to be.”

Answer: **False**. “You don’t have to be so rude” is grammatically correct.

# of 14 – End

# Well done. You have completed this session on verb patterns. We have covered:

# Must.

# Have to.

# Musn’t.

# Don’t have to.

# If you have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and ask your tutor for more help.