

MUST VS HAVE TO – FORM

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MUST

+

We **must** call early.

-

We **mustn't** call early.

?

Must we call early?

A

Yes, we **must**.
No, we **mustn't**.

MUST is an auxiliary verb.
Use MUST/MUSTN'T in negatives/questions.

✗

We ~~don't must~~ arrive early.

✓

We **mustn't** arrive early.

MUST has no past or future forms.
Use HAD TO and WILL HAVE TO.

✗

Yesterday I ~~must go~~ to the dentist.

✗

I ~~will must~~ speak to her tomorrow.

NOT very common in questions.

Must we call early?

(Not very common.)

HAVE TO

+

He **has to** wear a uniform.

-

He **doesn't have to** wear a uniform.

?

Does he **have to** wear a uniform?

A

Yes, he **does**.
No, he **doesn't**.

HAVE TO is not an auxiliary verb.
Use DO/DID in negatives and questions.

✗

He ~~hadn't to~~ wear a uniform.

✓

He **didn't have to** wear a uniform.

Use HAD TO to talk about the past and
WILL HAVE TO to talk about the future.

✓

Yesterday I **had to** go to the dentist.

✓

I **will have to** speak to her tomorrow.

More common in questions.

*Do we **have to** call early?*

(More common.)

MUST VS. HAVE TO – MEANING

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You **must** rest for two weeks.

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I **have to** rest for two weeks.

MUST

Obligation that comes from the speaker.
The speaker thinks it's necessary.

MANAGER: You **must** be here at 7.

SMOKER*: I **must** stop smoking.

*The obligation comes from the smoker. The smoker thinks it's necessary.

HAVE TO

External obligation.
Another person thinks it's necessary.

WORKER: I **have to** be there at 7.

SMOKER*: I **have to** stop smoking.

*The obligation comes from the doctor. The doctor thinks it's necessary.

MUSTN'T

Prohibition. You can't do something.
It's necessary that you don't do it.

You **mustn't** wait here.

You can't wait here. It's not allowed.

He **mustn't** call her at work.

He can't call her at work. It's necessary that he doesn't call her at work.

DON'T HAVE TO

No obligation. You can do something but you don't need to do it. Not necessary.

You **don't have to** wait here.

You don't need to wait here. Not necessary.

He **doesn't have to** call her at work.

He doesn't need to call her if he doesn't want to do it. It's not necessary.

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