



Grammar Talks 4-08 Modals of Obligation

Meg has to move

Meg is moving soon and she talks with Todd about all the things she needs to do.

Todd: So Meg, are you busy this weekend?

Meg: Yes, I'm so busy because I'm moving.

Todd: Oh, no.

Meg: Yeah, there's a lot _____ do.

Todd: What do you have _____ ?

Meg: First, I have _____ my apartment, so I need to pack all of my things.

Todd: That's not fun.

Meg: No, it takes a long time.

Todd: Do you need help?

Meg: Yeah, do you have time _____ ?

Todd: I can help _____ Sunday.

Meg: Ooh, are you _____ Saturday?

Todd: Yeah, on Saturday I have _____. I have _____ two classes, and then after I teach, I have _____ papers. Oh, it sounds _____ really busy too. Plus, I have to meet my friends that evening.

Meg: Oh, what will you do with your friends?

Todd: I'm helping my friend also. My friend has car problems, so I have _____ to the mechanic, but on Sunday I can help you.

Meg: OK, that would be great because on Sunday I have to take some trash to the dump, and I have _____ some paperwork at city hall to prepare for moving to a new country

Todd: Now, because you're moving, do you have to go to the post office?

Meg: I do have to go to the post office. I almost forgot. At the post office, I have to submit a form to say my new address.

Todd: Ah, that's good because I have to go to the post office, too.

Meg: Oh, really.

Todd: I have to send my mom's birthday gift to her.

Meg: When is your mom's birthday?

Todd: It was one month ago.

Meg: Ah, so you have to send it quickly.

Quiz

- 1) Who has to work on Saturday?
 - a) Meg
 - b) Todd
 - c) Both of them
- 2) Where does he have to take his friend?
 - a) His work
 - b) The dentist
 - c) The mechanic
- 3) What does she have to do at the post office?
 - a) Mail a letter
 - b) Submit a form
 - c) Send a package
- 4) What does he have to send?
 - a) A form
 - b) A gift
 - c) A letter
- 5) Where do they have to go on Sunday?
 - a) The dump
 - b) The dairy
 - c) The dentist

Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| to teach | to take him | busy on | to do |
| of work to | to prepare | you on | to finish |
| to help me | like you're | to work | to grade |

Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) Do you have a lot to do this week?
- 2) What do you have to do?
- 3) When do you have to finish it by?
- 4) Why do you have to do it?
- 5) Do you need to report to anyone?

- (_) I need to complete everything my Friday.
 (_) Yes, I have so much to do this week.
 (_) I have to write three reports.
 (_) Yes, I have to report to my teacher.
 (_) I must turn it in to pass my Business English class.

What about you? Share your answers to the questions.

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Todd: Yes, I have to *get on it*.

Meg: OK, well, let's go together.

Todd: So, I'll see you Sunday.
What time should I be here?

Meg: I have to go to city hall by
three p.m., so can you come at
two?

Todd: OK, but if you want to go to
the dump, the dump closes at
noon, so we have to leave early.



Meg: Ah, OK. Can you come at
eleven?

Todd: Yes. OK, so I will see you at eleven o'clock.

Meg: Great, see you then.

Todd: Bye.

Meg: Bye.

Grammar

Grammar Point

Point 1: We use the modals **must**, **need to**, and **have to** for actions that are obligations.

1. You **must** hurry.
2. You **need to** finish this.
3. I **have to** go now.
4. We **need to** pay the bill.

Point 2: All the modals are very similar in meaning but **must** is stronger than **have to** or **need to**.

1. You **must** take your medicine. (strong)
2. You **have to** take your medicine. (not as strong)
3. You **need to** take your medicine.

Point 3: The negative forms have very different meanings. **Must not** or **mustn't** is a command to not do something.

1. You **mustn't** go there. / You **can't** go there.
2. She **mustn't** trust him. / She **can't** trust him.
3. They **mustn't** be late. / You **can't** be late.
4. You **mustn't** lose this. / You **can't** lose this.

Point 4: When we say you **don't need to**, or **don't have to** to do something, then it is an option or not necessary.

1. You **don't have to** wear a tie. / It is OK not to wear a tie.
2. You **don't need to** be there. / It is OK not to go.
3. She **doesn't have to** pay me back. / She **can** keep her money.
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Todd: That's not fun.

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