

# ENGLISH- INTERMEDIATE

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# 4

## Getting it right

Modal and related verbs • Phrasal verbs (I) • Polite requests and offers

Lecture 8



## STARTER

Look at the sentences.  
Say them aloud as a class.

You	can must should have to	go.
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- 1 Say the negative.
- 2 Say the question.
- 3 Say the 3rd person singular with *he*.
- 4 Which verb is different in form?

# Modern morals



- 1** How should I deal with my difficult and disagreeable neighbour? He is in the habit of dumping his garden waste along the public footpath between our two houses.

*Jim T. via email*

- 2** Is it OK to greet people you don't know with a 'How are you?' In California (my home) it's considered friendly, but here in London some people react with a cold look. Should I be less friendly in my greetings?

*Erica Fleckberg, London*

- 3** My new PC automatically picks up wireless networks to gain access to the Internet. This includes the one belonging to my neighbour. Is it right for me to use it?

*Richard Dalton, via email*

**4** My stepfather was disqualified for two years for drink-driving, but we have learnt that he still drives while under the influence of alcohol. Should we keep quiet or inform the police?

*Stella Milne, Newcastle*

**5** I am a medical student. After I qualify in June, I have one month before my first job starts. My fiancée says that I am not allowed to claim unemployment benefit for this. I disagree, because I'll be unemployed. The dole is for all those who are out of work, isn't it? What do you think?

*J. R. Collin, via email*

**6** Is it wrong for me to record CDs borrowed from my local library? I am not denying anyone the money, as I wouldn't buy the CD anyway.

*Pete Rodriguez, via email*

**7** Is it ever permissible to lie to children? I lied to my two-year-old granddaughter to remove her from a fairground ride without a tantrum. I said: 'You must get off now because the man is going for his dinner.' She got down without a fuss. But I'm worried that if she remembers this, she won't trust me in future.

*Barbara Hope, Perth, Australia*

## 4.1 **have to**

### **Form**

**has/have + to + infinitive**

*You **have to go** to school.*

*She **has to study** hard.*

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

*We **don't have to take** exams.*

*Does she **have to study** maths?*

*Do they **have to leave** now?*

### **Use**

- 1 *Have to* expresses strong obligation.  
*You **have to work hard** if you want to succeed.*
- 2 *Have to* expresses a general obligation based on a law or rule, or based on the authority of another person.  
*Children **have to go** to school until they are 16.*  
*Mum says you **have to clean** your room before you go out.*
- 3 *Have to* is impersonal. It doesn't necessarily express the opinion of the speaker.  
*The doctor says I **have to lose** weight.*  
*People all over the world **have to learn** English.*
- 4 *Have to* has all verb forms. *Must* doesn't.  
*I **had to work** last night. (Past)*  
*You'll **have to study** hard. (Future)*  
*She's rich. She's never **had to do** any work. (Present Perfect)*  
*I hate **having** to get up on winter mornings. (-ing form)*

## 4.2 **have got to**

- 1 *Have got to* is common in British English but it is more informal than *have to*. It is more spoken than written.

*I've got to go now. See you!*

*We've got to get up early tomorrow.*

*I'm in trouble! You've got to help me!*

- 2 *Have got to* expresses an obligation now, or on a particular occasion soon.

*I've got to stop eating ice-cream! It's too yummy!*

*I usually start work at 9.00, but tomorrow I've got to start at 8.00.*

*Now he's 21, he's got to learn to be responsible.*

*You've got to pay me back tomorrow.*

- 3 *Have to* expresses a general repeated obligation.

*I always have to tell my parents where I'm going.*

*Teachers have to prepare lessons and correct homework.*

## GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 These sentences give advice. Which is the stronger advice?

You **should** check online.

You **must** tell your neighbour.

- 2 Which sentences express permission? Which express obligation?

I		<b>can</b>		go.
		<b>am allowed to</b>		
		<b>must</b>		
		<b>have to</b>		

- 3 Complete the sentences with *have to*, *don't have to*, or *mustn't*.

Children \_\_\_\_\_ go to school.

You \_\_\_\_\_ ride your bike on the footpath.

People over 65 \_\_\_\_\_ go to work.

- 4 The past of these sentences is the same. What is it?

I must go.      I have to go.

▶▶ **Grammar Reference 4.1–4.5 p137–8**

## 4.3 MODAL AND RELATED VERBS

These are the modal verbs:

*can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, must, ought to.*

They are used before other verbs and add meanings, such as certainty, possibility, obligation, ability, and permission.

You **must** be exhausted.

I **can** swim.

It **might** rain.

### Form

- 1 There is no -s in the third person singular.

*She can ski. He must be tired. It might rain.*

- 2 There is no *do/does/don't/doesn't* in the question or negative.

*What should I do? Can I help you? You mustn't steal!*  
*He can't dance. I won't be a minute.*

- 3 Modal auxiliary verbs are followed by the infinitive without *to*.  
The exception is *ought to*.

*You must go. I'll help you. You ought to see a doctor.*

- 4 They have no infinitives and no -ing forms. Other expressions are used instead.

*I'd love to be able to ski.*

*I hate having to get up on cold winter mornings.*



- 5 They don't usually have past forms. Instead, we use them with Perfect infinitives.

*You **should have told** me that you can't swim. You **might have drowned!***

Or we use other expressions.

*I **had to** work hard in school.*

- 6 *Could* is used with a past meaning to talk about a general ability.

*I **could** swim when I was six. (= general ability)*

To talk about ability on one specific occasion, we use *was able to/managed to*.

*The prisoner **was able to/managed to** escape by climbing onto the roof of the prison.*