have to and **must**

A   I **have to** do something = it is necessary to do it, I am obliged to do it:
- ○ You can't turn right here. You **have to turn** left.
- ○ I **have to wear** glasses for reading.
- ○ Robert can't come out with us this evening.
  He **has to work** late.
- ○ Last week Tina broke her arm and **had to go** to hospital.
- ○ I haven't **had to go** to the doctor for ages.

> You **have to turn** left here.

We use **do**/**does**/**did** in questions and negative sentences
(for the present and past simple):
- ○ What **do** I **have to do** to get a new driving licence? (*not* What have I to do?)
- ○ Karen **doesn't have to work** Saturdays. (*not* Karen hasn't to)
- ○ '**Did** you **have to wait** a long time for a bus?' 'No, only ten minutes.'

You can say **I'll have to** …, **I'm going to have to** …, **I might have to** …, **I may have to** …:
- ○ They can't repair my computer, so I**'ll have to buy** a new one. *or*
  … I**'m going to have to buy** a new one.
- ○ We **might have to change** our plans. *or* We **may have to change** …
  (= it's possible that we will have to change them)

B   **Must** is similar to **have to**. You can say:
- ○ It's later than I thought. I **must go**. *or* I **have to go**.

You can use **must** or **have to** when you give your own opinion (for example, to say what *you* think is necessary, or to recommend someone to do something):
- ○ I haven't spoken to Sue for ages. I **must phone** her. / I **have to phone** her.
  (= I say this is necessary)
- ○ Mark is a really nice person. You **must meet** him. / You **have to meet** him.
  (= I recommend this)

We use **have to** (*not usually* **must**) to say what someone is *obliged* to do. This is a *fact*, not the speaker's own opinion:
- ○ I **have to work** from 8.30 to 5.30 every day. (a fact, not an opinion)
- ○ Jane **has to travel** a lot for her work.

But we use **must** in written rules and instructions:
- ○ Applications for the job **must be received** by 18 May.
- ○ Seat belts **must be worn**.

> Seat belts must be worn

We use **had to** (*not* **must**) to talk about the past:
- ○ I went to the meeting yesterday, but I **had** to leave early. (*not* I must)

C   **Mustn't** and **don't have to** are completely different:

> You **mustn't** do something = *don't* do it:
> - ○ You **must keep** this a secret. You **mustn't tell** anyone. (= don't tell anyone)
> - ○ I promised I would be on time. I **mustn't be** late. (= I must be on time)

You **don't have to** do something = you don't need to do it (but you can if you want):
- ○ You **don't have to come** with me. I can go alone.
- ○ I **don't have to be** at the meeting, but I'm going anyway.

D   You can use **have got to** instead of **have to**. You can say:
- ○ I**'ve got to** work tomorrow. *or* I **have to** work tomorrow.
- ○ When **has** Helen **got to** go? *or* When **does** Helen **have to** go?