

must mustn't needn't

A



must + infinitive (must do / must see etc.):

I/we/you/they he/she/it	must	do stop go write etc.
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B

Use **must** when you think it is necessary to do something:

- The windows are very dirty. **I must clean them.**
- It's a fantastic film. **You must see it.**
- We **must** go to the bank today. We haven't got any money.

For the past (yesterday / last week etc.), we use **had to ... (not must)**:

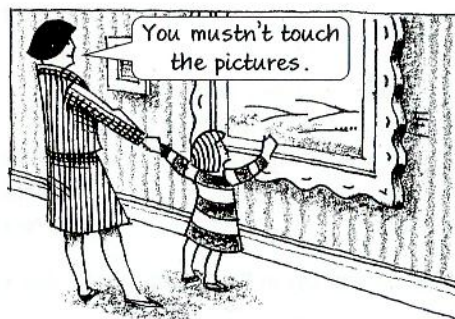
- We **had to** go to the bank yesterday. (not 'We must go ... yesterday')
- I **had to** walk home last night. There were no buses. (not 'I must walk')

C

mustn't (= must not)

I mustn't (do something) = it is necessary *not* to do it, it is the wrong thing to do:

- **I must hurry. I mustn't be late.**
- **I mustn't forget** to phone Julia.
(= **I must remember** to phone her)
- Be happy! **You mustn't be sad.** (= don't be sad)
- **You mustn't touch** the pictures.
(= don't touch the pictures)



D

needn't (= need not)

I needn't (do something) = it is *not necessary* to do it, I don't need to do it:

- **I needn't clean** the windows. They aren't very dirty.
- **You needn't go** to the bank today. I can give you some money.

You can also say **don't need to ... (= needn't)**:

- **I don't need to clean** the windows.
- **You don't need to go** to the bank today.

Compare **needn't** and **mustn't**:

- **You needn't go.** You can stay here if you want.
- **You mustn't go.** You must stay here.