Must and have to

Both **must** and **have to** are modal verbs that express obligation. However, there are some differences in the way and context in which they appear in the sentence.

Both **must** and **have to** are used with the infinitive, however **must** goes with bare infinitive i.e. infinitive without **to**, while **have to** already includes the particle **to.**

You **must promise** me. Not ~~must to promise~~

You have to do as I say. Not ~~you have do as I say~~

Follow how must and have to are used in sentences

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Positive | I must study harder | He has to go to work on foot  We have to work late hours |
| Negative | Must I stay at home? | Does she have to stay at home?  Do they have to work all night? |
| Interrogative (question) | I must not = mustn’t smoke indoors. | She doesn’t have to do the work alone.  I don’t have to go to work today |
| Short answer | Must I stay at home?  Yes, you must. No, you mustn’t = must not | Does she have to stay at home?  Yes, she does.  No, she doesn’t  Do they have to work all night?  Yes, they do.  No, they don’t |

I must go We must go

You must go You must go

He/she/it must go They must go

We use must

1. For personal obligation i.e. when a person knows that it is their obligation to do something.

*I must work harder.*

*I must respect the law.*

1. For an instruction, regulation or order (mainly written)

*Visitors must leave their belongings in the cloakroom.*

*Cell phones must be turned off.*

1. For strong advice

*You must see that movie. It’s very good.*

1. Mustn’t shows things that you are not allowed to do. It expresses prohibition.

*You mustn’t drive while talking on the phone.*

*You mustn’t smoke at a gas station.*

We use **have to**

1. In negative and interrogative sentences with auxiliary verbs

*Do I have to translate the text?*

*Does he have to translate the text?*

*Did he have to translate the text?*

*Will he have to translate the text?*

1. For external or circumstantial obligation i.e. when a person does something because the circumstances force them to.

*My car is out of order. I have to go to work by bus.*

*I will have to wake up earlier in winter.*

1. In negative form **have to** shows ***absence of necessity*** and is synonymous to **don’t need to**

*I don’t have to wake up early tomorrow.*

*He doesn’t have to come if he doesn’t want to.*

Have to is not used in contracted form

*I have to not ~~I’ve to~~*

For the past and future **have to** and **must** have similar forms.

In past– **had to**

In future – **will/ shall have to**

*We had to do everything ourselves.*

*We will have to do everything ourselves.*