

Will, would and used to

A We can use **will** (for the present) and **would** (for the past) to talk about characteristic behaviour or habits:

- ☐ Every day Dan **will** come home from work and turn on the TV.
- ☐ At school she **would** always sit quietly and pay attention.

and about things that are or were always true:

- ☐ Cold weather **will** kill certain plants.
- ☐ During the war, people **would** eat all kinds of things that we don't eat now.

(For the use of **will** to talk about the future, see Unit 9.)

We don't use **will** or **would** in this way to talk about a *particular* occasion. Compare:

- ☐ Each time I gave him a problem he **would** solve it for me. *and*
- ☐ Last night I gave him a problem and he solved it for me. (*not* Last night I gave him a problem and he **would** solve it for me.)

However, we can use **will not** (**won't**) and **would not** (**wouldn't**) in either case. Compare:

- ☐ He **would/wouldn't** walk the 5 miles to his place of work. (characteristic behaviour) *and*
- ☐ She **wouldn't** say what was wrong when I asked her.

B In speech, we can stress **will** or **would** to criticise people's characteristic behaviour or habits. It often suggests that criticisms have been made before but ignored:

- ☐ She just **won't** do the washing up when I ask her.
- ☐ I was happy when Sam left. He **would** talk about people behind their backs.

We can also criticise a person directly or express disapproval of something they have done or do regularly using **will**:

- ☐ 'I feel sick.' 'Well, if you **will** eat so much, I'm not surprised.' (indicating disapproval)

C We can use **will** to draw conclusions or state assumptions about things that are the case now (see also Unit 9B):

- ☐ Jack **will** be at home by now. Let's go and see him.
- ☐ You **will** know that John and Sandra are engaged. (= I believe you already know)

D When we talk about repeated events in the past that don't happen now we can use either **would** or **used to** + infinitive. However, we can use **would** only if the time reference is clear. Compare:

- ☐ We **used to** play in the garden. (*not* We **would** play...; time reference not given) *and*
- ☐ Whenever we went to my uncle's house, we **would/used to** play in the garden.

We can use **used to** but not **would** when we talk about past states that have changed:

- ☐ The factory **used to** be over there. ☐ Didn't you **use to** smoke at university?

We don't use either **used to** or **would** when we say exactly how many times in total something happened, how long something took, or that a single event happened at a given past time:

- ☐ We **visited** Switzerland four times during the 1970s. (*not* We **would/used to** visit...)
- ☐ She **went** to Jamaica last month. (*not* She **would/used to** go to Jamaica last month.)

E To talk about an *unreal past* situation – that is, an imaginary situation or a situation that might have happened in the past, but didn't – we use **would have** + past participle:

- ☐ I **would have been** happy to see him, but I didn't have time.
- ☐ My grandmother **wouldn't have approved** of the exhibition.

However, when we want to indicate that we think a past situation actually happened, we prefer **will have** + past participle:

- ☐ As you **will have noticed**, he's got new glasses. (*rather than* ...would have noticed...)
- ☐ Most people **won't have seen** last night's lunar eclipse. (*rather than* ...wouldn't have seen...)

- 16.1 If possible, complete these sentences with will (or won't) or would (or wouldn't) followed by one of these verbs. If it is not possible to use will or would, use a verb in the past simple. (A & C)

come decide eat help invite keep remember

- 1 Amy works really hard. Every afternoon she home from school at 4.15 and do an hour of piano practice.
- 2 Richard phoned yesterday and me out for dinner.
- 3 When Dominic was young he any green vegetables.
- 4 The creaking noises in the old house me awake until I became accustomed to them.
- 5 I'm sure that many people seeing Sarah Thomas on television in the 1980s.
- 6 Whenever I had a problem with my maths homework, Sam me.
- 7 After standing on the bathroom scales, I that I needed to lose some weight.

- 16.2 If necessary, correct these sentences using would or used to. If neither would nor used to is correct, use a past simple verb form. (D)

- 1 I would enjoy studying Latin when I was at school.
- 2 Orwell would spend winters in Spain and summers in England.
- 3 We would live in a bungalow on the south coast, and then we moved to a flat in London.
- 4 You used to teach at Halston University, didn't you?
- 5 On Saturdays and Sundays the ferry used to take tourists across to the island.
- 6 The committee would meet four times last week, but still no decision has been reached.

- 16.3 Complete these sentences with will have or would have and the past participle of one of these verbs. (E)

buy hear hurt notice prefer say record

- 1 'I wanted to watch *The Simpsons* last night, but I missed it.' 'I'm certain Derek it. We can go over to his place to see it.'
- 2 Don't accept lifts from strangers – as my mother
- 3 I don't think the dog anyone, but I was still glad when the owner took it away.
- 4 I'm sure by now you about yesterday's robbery at the supermarket.
- 5 My parents weren't very affectionate towards me. I always thought they a daughter.
- 6 Sampras's rivals the difficulties he had with his shoulder in the tournament last week.
- 7 'Did you like the present Joan gave you for your birthday?' 'Well, an umbrella stand isn't something I myself, but I suppose it might be useful.'

- 16.4 Suggest completions to these responses as in the last example of B. Show that you are criticising or expressing disapproval. (B)

'I think I'm putting on weight.' 'Well, if you will,

'I've got a headache.' 'Well, if you will,

'I'm really hot.' 'Well, if you will,

May and might: possibility

- A** May and **might** often have a similar meaning when we talk about possibility. However, we prefer **may** in academic or formal language to talk about the characteristics or behaviour of something:
- ☐ The seeds from the plant **may** grow up to 20 centimetres in length.
- and in speech we prefer **might** to say what we will possibly do in the future:
- ☐ I **might** paint the kitchen purple.
- B** We don't use **may** to ask questions about the possibility of something happening. Instead we use, for example, **could(n't)** or the phrase **be likely**:
- ☐ **Could** it be that you don't want to leave? (*not* May it be that you ...?)
 - ☐ **Are** you **likely** to be in Spain again this summer? (*not* May you be in Spain...?)
- It is possible to use **might** in this type of question, but it is rather formal:
- ☐ **Might** they be persuaded to change their minds?
- Note that we can use **may** in formally asking for permission and offering help:
- ☐ May I leave now? ☐ May I help you?
- C** **Might** (not 'may') + **bare infinitive** is sometimes used to talk about what was *typically* the case in the past. This is a formal or literary use:
- ☐ During the war, the police **might** *arrest* you for criticising the king.
 - ☐ Years ago children **might** *be sent* down mines at the age of six. (passive form)
- We can also use **could** + **bare infinitive** in examples like this to talk about past ability (see Unit 15). For example, 'During the war, the police **could** arrest you...' means that the police were legally able to arrest you.
- D** When we say that a person or thing compensates to some extent for a limitation or weakness by having another characteristic, we can use a pattern with **may/might not + bare infinitive ...but...** or **may/might not have + past participle...but...**:
- ☐ The painting **may not** *be* a masterpiece, **but** you've got to admit that the colours are striking.
 - ☐ She **might not** *have danced* very gracefully, **but** she had a lot of energy and enthusiasm.
- E** We use **may/might** (not 'can') + **have + past participle** and **may/might** (not 'can') + **be + -ing** to talk about possible events in the past, present and future:
- ☐ Do you think Jean **may/might** *have completed* the report by now? (past)
 - ☐ His maths **may/might** *have improved* by the time the exam comes round. (future)
 - ☐ Malcolm isn't in his office. He **may/might** *be working* at home today. (present)
 - ☐ When I go to Vienna I **may/might** *be staying* with Richard, but I'm not sure yet. (future)
- Note that **could** can be used in the same patterns instead of **may** or **might**:
- ☐ Do you think Jean **could** *have completed* the report by now?
- We can use **may/might have been + -ing** to talk about possible situations or activities that went on over a period of past time:
- ☐ David didn't know where the ball was, but he thought his sister **might** *have been playing* with it before she left for school.
- F** We can use **might/could + have + past participle** to criticise someone because they didn't do something we think they should have:
- ☐ She's gone without us. She **might/could** *have waited*!
 - ☐ You **might/could** *have done* the ironing instead of leaving it all to me.
- We usually stress **might** or **could** in sentences like this.

17.1 Complete the sentences with either *may* or *might*, whichever is more likely. If neither is possible, suggest an alternative completion. (A & B)

- 1 We _____ go to Majorca for our holiday this summer.
- 2 The planet Venus _____ be seen clearly in the night sky during this month.
- 3 _____ you see Becky this weekend?
- 4 I feel really sore after playing tennis. I think I _____ have a bath.
- 5 'Someone's left their coat.' '_____ it be Ken's?'
- 6 Exceeding the stated dose _____ cause drowsiness.

17.2 Complete the sentences with *may* or *might* followed by one of the following forms of the verb in brackets: *be* + past participle, *have* + past participle, *be* + *-ing*, *have been* + *-ing*. If both *may* and *might* are possible, indicate this. (C & E)

- 1 There's a man lying down on the pavement over there. Do you think he _____ himself? (*hurt*)
- 2 I _____ you this before. I can't remember. (*tell*)
- 3 Is that John's car that just stopped? He _____ for us. (*wait*)
- 4 In the early 19th century a person _____ to Australia for stealing as little as a loaf of bread. (*send*)
- 5 'Ann looks exhausted.' 'I suppose she _____.' (*run*)
- 6 I've heard that the newsagent's is losing a lot of money and it _____ down. (*close*)
- 7 Real Madrid started well and _____ an early lead when Figo hit the post, but Barcelona scored first after 20 minutes. (*take*)
- 8 As little as 50 years ago a worker still _____ for being ill. (*dismiss*)
- 9 'When will the painting be ready?' 'Well, I _____ it by this evening.' (*finish*)
- 10 The race had to be stopped because the oil on the track _____ an accident. (*cause*)

17.3 Complete these sentences in any appropriate way. (D)

- 1 He may not be the best singer in the world, but _____
- 2 Hugh's old car might not be terribly comfortable, but _____
- 3 Her English grammar may not be very accurate, but _____

Now expand these notes to complete the sentences.

sound/ exciting agree/ him express/ feelings openly ~~work/ quickly~~



- 4 He may/might not work very quickly, but at least he's very reliable.
- 5 _____, but his opinions on architecture certainly make you think.
- 6 _____, but the new museum of fishing is actually very good.
- 7 _____, but she is really very fond of you.

Must and have (got) to

- A** We use **must** and **must not** in formal rules and regulations and in warnings:
- ☐ Bookings **must** be made at least seven days before departure.
 - ☐ The government **must not** be allowed to appoint judges.
- In spoken English we often use **must** and **mustn't** (= must not) to propose a future arrangement, such as a meeting or social event, without making detailed plans:
- ☐ We **must** get together more often.
 - ☐ We **mustn't** leave it so long next time.
- We can also use **I must...** to remind ourselves to do something:
- ☐ I **must** phone Steve when I get home. I said I'd call him last night, but I forgot.

- B** To draw a conclusion about –
- ☆ something that happened in the past we use **must + have + past participle**:
 - ☐ That's not Kate's car. She **must have borrowed** it from her parents.
 - ☆ something happening at or around the time of speaking we use **must be + -ing**:
 - ☐ I can't hear anyone moving around upstairs. You **must be imagining** things.
 - ☆ something that is likely to happen in the future we use **must be going to** or **must be + -ing**:
 - ☐ 'What are all those workmen doing?' 'I think they **must be going to dig up** the road.'
 - ☐ I was wrong about the meeting being today. It **must be happening next** Friday.
 - ☆ a present situation we use **must be**, or **have (got) to be** in informal speech:
 - ☐ Their goalkeeper **has got to be** at least two metres tall! (or ...**must be**...)
- We can use **must have to** to say that we conclude something based on what we know about a present situation and **must have had to** to conclude something about a past situation:
- ☐ I can't start the computer. You **must have to know** a password. (= a password is necessary)
 - ☐ John wasn't at home when I went round. He **must have had to go out** unexpectedly.
- Note that we can't say 'must've to' or 'must have got to/ must've got to' (but we can say **must've had to**).

- C** In questions that hope for or expect a negative answer we prefer **have (got) to**, although in formal contexts **must** is sometimes used:
- ☐ Do we **have to answer all** the questions? (or **Have we got to...?**; **Must we...?** is also possible but rather formal)
- We use **have to** in questions that imply a criticism. **Must** can also be used, although some people think this is rather old-fashioned. We usually stress **have** and **must** in sentences like this:
- ☐ Do you **have to play** your trumpet here? It's deafening me! (or more formally **Must** you play...?)

- D** Sometimes we can use either **have to** or **have got to**. However –
- ☆ we use **have to** with frequency adverbs such as **always, never, normally, rarely, sometimes**, etc:
 - ☐ I **often have to** work at the weekend to get everything done.
 - ☆ with the past simple we use **had to** especially in questions and negative sentences:
 - ☐ When **did you have to** give it back? (not When **had you got to** give it back?)
 - ☐ We **didn't have to** wait too long for an answer. (not We **hadn't got to** wait too long...)
 - ☆ if **have** is contracted (e.g. I've, He's, It'd) then we must include **got**:
 - ☐ The experiment has failed twice before, so it's **got to** work this time. (not ...so it's to work this time.)
 - ☆ we don't use **have got to** with other modal verbs:
 - ☐ Employees **will have to** accept the new conditions or be dismissed. (not Employees **will have got to** accept...)

Notice also that **have got to** is often preferred in informal speech.

- 18.1 Complete these sentences with one of these forms: must have + past participle; must + bare infinitive; must be + -ing; or must have (had) to. Use the verbs given. (B)
- When I left my laptop on the train I thought I'd never see it again. But someone _____ it and handed it in to the lost property office. (*find*)
 - Janine owns a big car and a yacht. She _____ incredibly rich. (*be*)
 - 'Everyone's going into the hall.' 'The meeting _____ soon. Let's go.' (*start*)
 - Without things like washing machines and dishwashers our grandparents _____ much harder in the kitchen than we do today. (*work*)
 - 'Where's the camera?' 'If it's not in the cupboard, Ken _____ it. He said he was going to take some photos of the city centre today.' (*use*)
 - The children are putting balloons outside their house. They _____ a party. (*have*)
 - I didn't think Bob was coming to the meeting. He _____ his mind. (*change*)
 - 'I wonder how you get permission to go into the building.' 'I suppose you _____ some form of identification.' (*show*)
 - 'I thought Paul would be home.' 'He _____ Jenny to work. He said he would.' (*take*)
 - Look at all those birds. There _____ at least a thousand of them. (*be*)

- 18.2 Write new sentences with a similar meaning. Use have/has got to where it is possible or preferable; otherwise use have/has to. (D)

- It is necessary to do all of this photocopying before lunchtime. All of this photocopying has got to be done/has to be done before lunchtime.
- It is rarely necessary to ask Suzanne to tidy her room. Suzanne
- Is it necessary for us to hand in the homework tomorrow? Have
- It wasn't necessary for me to go to the hospital after all. I
- Was it necessary for Ben to go alone? Did
- It is sometimes necessary for Don to start work at 6.30. Don
- It is necessary to extend the college to accommodate the growing number of students. The college
- It may be necessary for us to cancel our holiday because my mother is ill. We

- 18.3 Where necessary, make corrections in the underlined parts of this email message. (A-D)

From: wendy@bt.com
To: marge@bt.com
Subject: A break in!

Attachments: none

Hello Marge

Sorry I haven't been in touch for a while. You (1) must have been wondering what's been happening. Well, I must admit I've had a pretty awful week. When I got home from work last Monday, the front door was wide open. The door's very stiff, and I (2) always have got to pull it very hard to shut it. My neighbour's always saying, "(3) Have you to bang the door so hard?" When I went in I found that the house had been burgled. They (4) must have climbed over the fence in the back garden. None of the windows and doors were damaged, so someone very small (5) must have to squeeze through the tiny window in the kitchen. I suppose I (6) must leave it open, but I didn't expect anyone to be able to get in. Then they (7) must have come through the house and opened the front door for the others. Of course, the first thing I did was to call the police and I (8) mustn't wait very long for them to get here. Fortunately, the only thing that was taken was my television. I think the burglars (9) must be disturbed, perhaps when the postman came. So now (10) I've to get a new lock for the front door and replace the television, and I (11) must put some locks on the windows. I suppose I (12) may must get a burglar alarm, too. I must say I've never really wanted one, but needs must! Anyway, (13) I've to go. Hope the family is well. Julie (14) must get ready to go back to university. And you (15) must be busy with the new school year just about to start. When you have time, we (16) have to get together for a weekend.

All the best for now,
Wendy

Can you find three other common expressions with must?

Need(n't), don't need to and don't have to

A We can use **need** as an ordinary verb or as a modal verb (followed by a bare infinitive). As a modal verb it doesn't change its tense and doesn't add '-s' for the third person singular.

Compare:

- ☐ I **needed** to leave early. *or* ☐ She's thirsty. She **needs** a drink. (= ordinary verb) *and*
- ☐ You **needn't** *speak* so loudly. (= modal verb)

When it is a modal verb **need** is most commonly used in negative sentences, often with verbs like **bother**, **concern**, **fear**, **panic**, **worry**:

- ☐ I've already cleaned the car so you **needn't** *bother* to do it.
- ☐ Judges in England **need not** *retire* until they are 75.
- ☐ I was very nervous before the interview, but I **needn't** *have worried*. Everyone was very friendly and I got the job.

It is sometimes used in questions, but we prefer to use **need** as an ordinary verb or **have to**:

- ☐ **Need** you go so soon? (= modal verb; less common and rather formal)
- ☐ **Do** you **need to** go so soon? (= ordinary verb) *or* ☐ **Do** you **have to** go so soon?

It is rarely used in affirmative sentences (that is, not questions or negatives), but is sometimes found in written English, particularly in fiction:

- ☐ We **need** *have* no fear for Nicole, she can take care of herself.

In other styles of formal written English it is used in this way with negative words such as **hardly**, **never**, **nobody/no-one**, and **only**:

- ☐ The changes **need** *only* be small to make the proposals acceptable. (*less formally* The changes *only* need to be...)
- ☐ *Nobody* ever **need** know about the money. (*less formally* *Nobody* ever needs to know...)
- ☐ 'I don't want my parents to know.' 'They **need** *never* find out.' (*less formally* They never need to find out.)

B To give permission not to do something we can use either **needn't** or **don't need to**:

- ☐ You **needn't** cut the grass, I'll do it later. (*or* You **don't need to** cut the grass...)

To talk about a general necessity, we prefer **don't need to**:

- ☐ You **don't need to** be over 18 to get into a disco. (*rather than* You *needn't* be...)

C We can often use either **needn't** or **don't have to** with little difference in meaning to say that it is unnecessary to do something:

- ☐ You **needn't** whisper. Nobody can hear us. (*or* You **don't have to**...)

However, some people prefer **needn't** when it is the speaker who decides the lack of necessity, and **don't have to** when external rules or somebody else's actions make something unnecessary.

Compare:

- ☐ As you worked late yesterday you **needn't** come in until 10.00 tomorrow morning. (the speaker's decision) *and*
- ☐ We've been told that we **don't have to** be at work until 10.00 tomorrow. (reporting someone else's decision.)

D We can use **needn't** (or **don't have to**) to say that something is not necessarily true. We don't use **mustn't** in this way (see also Unit 18C):

- ☐ Volcanoes **needn't** erupt constantly to be classified as 'active'. (*or* Volcanoes **don't have to** erupt...; *not* Volcanoes **mustn't** erupt...)
- ☐ Nowadays it **needn't** cost a fortune to own a powerful computer. (*or* Nowadays it **doesn't have to** cost...; *not* Nowadays it **mustn't** cost...)

- 19.1 Match the sentence beginnings and ends. Join them with **needn't** and the bare infinitive of one of the following verbs. (A)

bother change concern panic worry

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 I'll give you a lift to the station so you... | ...the details on the form. |
| 2 The questions are in the book so you... | ...yourself with his safety. |
| 3 All the windows have screens so you... | ...to copy them down. |
| 4 Your son is being looked after by friends so you... | ...about booking a taxi. |
| 5 The new tax laws don't come into force until next year so you... | ...about being bitten by mosquitoes. |

- 19.2 Rewrite the following in a formal style using **need**. (A)

- It is hardly necessary for us to remind you that the money is now due.
We need hardly remind you that the money is now due.
- It is only necessary for us to look at the population projections to see the seriousness of the problem.
.....
- With such a lead in the opinion polls it is hardly necessary for the Democrats to bother campaigning before the election.
.....
- It is not necessary for anyone to know who paid the ransom to the kidnappers.
.....
- After such a huge lottery win, it is not necessary for him to work again.
.....

- 19.3 Underline the more likely answer. If they are equally likely, underline them both. (B)

- In most developed countries, people needn't / don't need to boil water before they drink it.
- You needn't / don't need to walk. I'll give you a lift.
- There'll be a handout at the end of the lecture so you needn't / don't need to take notes.
- You needn't / don't need to have a university degree to become a police officer.
- You needn't / don't need to buy me a birthday present.
- In most cities you needn't / don't need to pay to get into the galleries and museums.

- 19.4 Here are some extracts from a speech made by the managing director of a company to her employees. Correct any mistakes. (A-D)

- You needn't to worry about losing your jobs.
- Need we make any changes in company policy? We are always happy to hear your views.
- Changes in technology mustn't be a problem, but could be seen as a great opportunity.
- I don't have to remind you that we are competing with two other companies.
- I need hardly to tell you how important it is that we get this order.
- You don't have to cancel your holiday plans.
- We mustn't allow our speed of production to drop.
- The present financial difficulties mustn't mean that people will lose their jobs.