

GRAMMAR

More on obligation, necessity, prohibition and advice

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_3102G

LANGUAGE

English

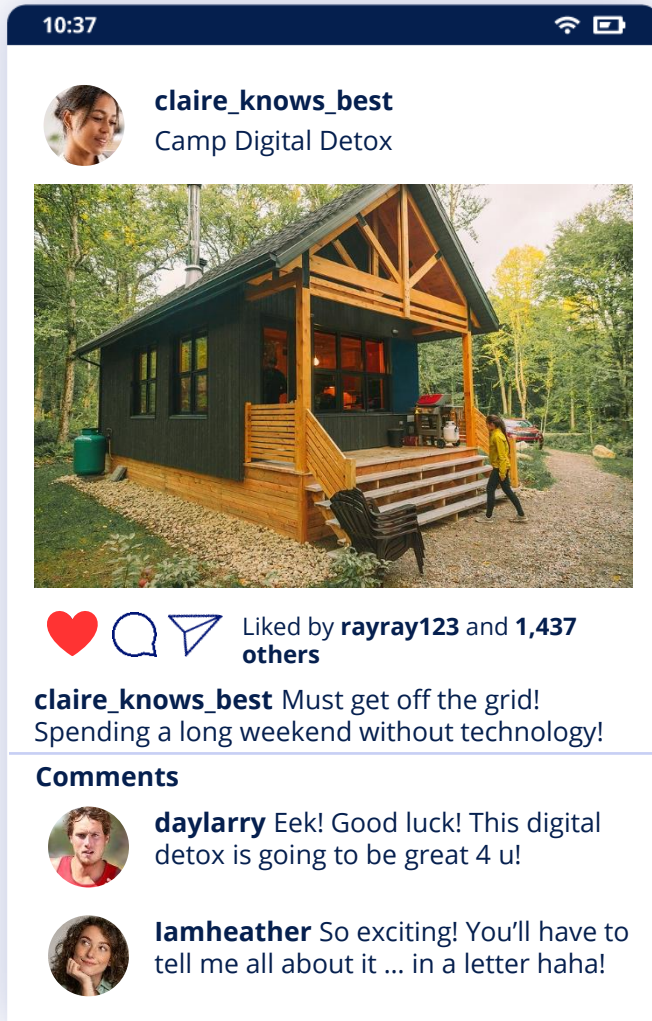


Learning outcomes

- I can correctly distinguish between, and use, a variety of modals to talk about obligation, necessity, prohibition and advice.
- I can give my views on social media's impact on my life using modals of obligation.



Warm-up



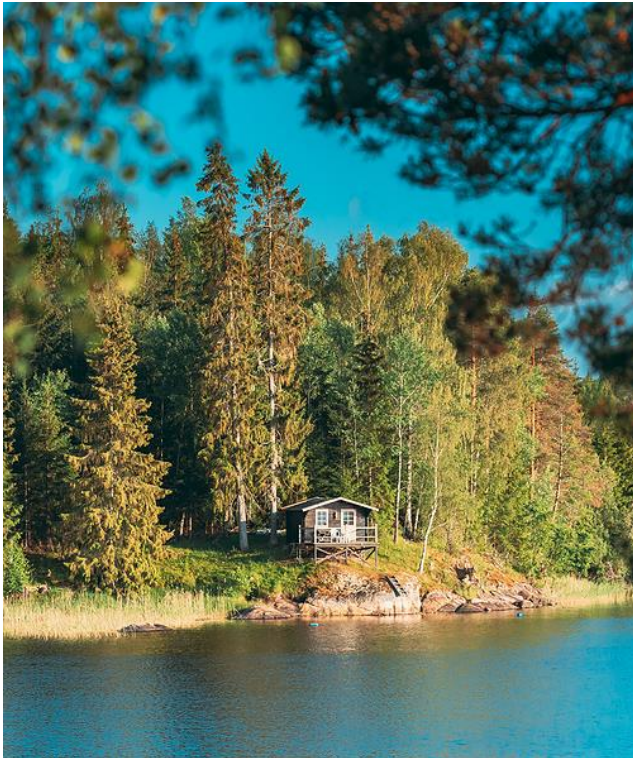
What information can you find out in this post?

Would you be interested in doing something similar?

Why or why not?

Camp Digital Detox

1. **Read** the rules at Camp Digital Detox.
2. Do you think they are difficult to follow?



- Participants can't talk about their work.
- Participants can't use their real names.
- All electronic devices have to be stored in a locker at the camp's entrance.
- Participants don't have to attend all the workshops.
- Participants should spend time each evening to reflect on their day.



Participants should spend time to **reflect on** their day.

What are some other things that you can **reflect on**?

Expressing obligation and necessity

Review the information below.

We use **must** when we think it is necessary to do something.

*Subject + **must** + bare infinitive*

Must is used when the speaker:

- decides something is necessary or needs to be done

I must tell you something = *I have decided that I need to tell you something*



To express obligation or necessity in the **past**, **must** is **not used**. It is replaced by **had to**.



We also use **have to** when we think it is necessary to do something.

*Subject + **have to/has to** + bare infinitive*

Have to/had to is used when:

- someone other than the speaker decides that something is necessary or needs to be done

My doctor told me I have to consume less sodium = *The doctor said I need to consume less sodium*

I ~~must~~ tell you something yesterday. ✗

I **had to** tell you something yesterday. ✓



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with the best answer.

- 1 According to the rules, I (have to / must) store my phone in a locker as soon as I arrive at Camp Digital Detox.
- 2 Yesterday, I (had to / must) talk about things other than my work.
- 3 When I get back, I (have to / must) tell you about my experience!
- 4 I decided to come to Camp Digital Detox because my partner told me I (had to / must) take a break from social media.
- 5 When I leave, I (have to / must) try to spend less time online. I want to become more aware of how I spend my time.

Expressing prohibition with *can't* and *mustn't*

Review the information below.

- **Can't** suggests that something is against specific rules or laws.
- **Mustn't** suggests a decision about what is right or wrong to do.

Subject + *can't* / *mustn't* + bare infinitive

Examples	Meanings
I can't enter the country without a visa.	Because it is a law.
I can't drive on the left side of the road in Spain.	Because it is illegal.
I mustn't look at my computer screen for too long.	Because it gives me headaches.
I mustn't eat almonds.	Because I am allergic to them.



Multiple choice

1. **Choose** the correct answer.
2. **Explain** your choice.

1 At Camp Digital Detox, I _____ use my real name.

a. can't

b. musn't

2 I _____ think about all the emails I can't reply to, otherwise I'll go crazy!

a. can't

b. musn't

3 I _____ use my laptop at Camp Digital Detox.

a. can't

b. musn't

Expressing obligation with *don't have to*

1. **Read** the example sentences.
2. **Review** the information in the blue box.

Participants **don't have to** attend all the workshops.

- We use ***don't have to*** when it is **not necessary** to do something.
- ***Don't have to*** means you **don't need to do something**, but you can if you want.
- **Subject + *don't/doesn't have to* + bare infinitive.**





Discuss

1. Think of 3 things **you do not have to do**.
2. Think of 3 things **you mustn't do**.
3. **Share** your answers in breakout rooms or together as a class!



No obligation:

*I don't have to
study for exams
anymore because I
finished university!*

Personal obligation:

*I mustn't spend so
much time on the
computer.*



Giving advice using *should* and *ought to*

1. **Read** the example sentences.
2. **Review** the information in the blue boxes.

Participants **should** spend time each evening to reflect on their day.

Participants **ought to** spend time each evening to reflect on their day.

- We use ***ought to*** and ***should*** to mean it is **good** or **right to do something**.
- They allow us to **give** or **ask** for **advice**.

- ***Ought not to*** and ***shouldn't*** are the opposites of ***ought to*** and ***should***.
- We use them to **give advice** on what is **not** a good idea.
- ***Ought not to*** isn't commonly used and can sound old-fashioned. Most native speakers prefer using ***shouldn't***.

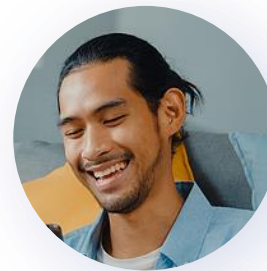
Giving advice using *should* and *ought to*

1. **Read** the information.
2. **Give** advice using *should/shouldn't* and *ought to/ought not to*.



Kim

- spends 8-10 hours per day online
- always tired
- checks phone constantly
- tries to post on social media at least twice a day



Steve

- struggles to complete work on time
- reads all the negative comments posted on his pictures and videos
- asks friends to pose for a lot of pictures whenever they meet

Social media's impact on your life

1. **Think** about how social media impacts your life.
2. **Answer** as many questions below as you can.

What must you do when you can't remember your password?

What do you have to do when you sign-up for a new social media account?

What can't you do while using social media at work or school?

What mustn't you do when you read negative comments?

What don't you have to do when your phone pings?

What should you do when using social media?



Giving advice

Answer the question below.

What advice would you give to a friend who wants to grow their business using social media?



What advice would you give to a friend who wants to decrease their social media consumption?



What's your opinion?

Answer the question below.

**Should there be stricter
age restrictions on social
media?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class!**





End of the lesson

Idiom

Don't give up your day job!

Meaning: used to tell someone in a humorous and well-meaning way that they aren't good at something.

Example: It's great that you like to paint, but don't give up your day job!



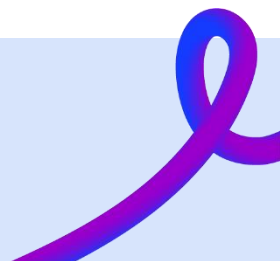
Additional practice



True or false?

- 1. **Read** each statement.
- 2. **Decide** if they are true or false.

		True	False
1	We always use <i>must</i> to express obligation and necessity in the past.		
2	<i>Have to/had to</i> is used when someone other than the speaker decides that something is necessary or needs to be done.		
3	<i>Can't</i> suggests a personal decision about what is right or wrong to do.		
4	We use <i>don't have to</i> when it is not necessary to do something.		
5	<i>Don't have to</i> means you don't need to do something, but you can if you want.		





Multiple choice



1 I _____ go to the doctor yesterday.

- a. must b. ought to c. had to d. should

2 I _____ study this weekend as I don't have any exams until next year.

- a. can't b. ought to c. don't have to d. should

3 You _____ use your phone after 10 p.m. You will sleep better if you don't.

- a. can't b. should c. ought to d. shouldn't

4 My account has been hacked! What _____ I do?

- a. should b. ought c. can't d. must

5 We _____ look at our phones during the lecture. The teacher has told us several times not to.

- a. shouldn't b. don't have to c. can't d. ought to



Brainstorm

Practise making sentences for each of the columns below. Your sentences should be about **social media**.

What must/mustn't we do? Do you have any advice for someone using social media?

1	2	3	4
obligation / necessity with <i>must</i>	obligation / necessity with <i>have to</i>	prohibition	advice
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Discuss

Use the vocabulary from the lesson to talk about the people below.

- What **advice** do you have for them?
- Talk about their **obligations** and **necessities**?
- Do they have any prohibitions?



Shane

- Has started a new business
- Doesn't have any social media
- Doesn't know much about technology



Dawn

- Doesn't have any social media
- Doesn't need social media for her job
- Has lots of friends she sees in person



Mia

- Has two young children
- Often posts pictures of them
- Has followers who she doesn't know



Frank

- Likes to cook
- Doesn't own any recipe books
- Thinks recipe books are too expensive



Alan

- Would like to meet someone and start a relationship
- Very busy job
- Enjoys social media



Discuss



What advice do you have for someone who wants to start a blog?

What must they do?
What mustn't they do?

Is there anything they should do?

Is there anything they don't have to do, but can if they want?

How can they make their blog a success?



Answer key

P.7: 1.) have to 2.) had to 3.) must 4.) had to 5.) must

P.9: 1.) can't 2.) mustn't 3.) can't

P. 20: 1.) false 2.) true 3.) false 4.) true 5.) true

P. 21: 1.) c 2.) c 3.) d 4.) a 5.) a



Summary

More on obligation, necessity, prohibition, and advice

Expressing obligation and necessity with *must*

- Subject + *must* + bare infinitive
- *Must* is used when the speaker decides something is necessary or needs to be done
- To express obligation or necessity in the **past**, *must* is **not used**. It is replaced by ***had to***

Expressing obligation and necessity with *have to*

- Subject + *have to/has to* + bare infinitive
- When someone other than the speaker decides that something is necessary
- We use ***had to*** in the past for the speaker and someone other than the speaker

Expressing prohibition

- Subject + *mustn't/can't* + bare infinitive
- *Can't* suggest that something is against specific rules or laws
- *Mustn't* suggests a decision about what is right or wrong to do

Expressing advice

- Subject + *should/ought to* + bare infinitive
- We use *should/ought to* to mean it is good or right to do something
- We use *shouldn't/ought not to* to give advice on what is not a good idea



Vocabulary

to reflect on something

must

have to

should

ought to

musn't

can't

don't have to

shouldn't

