

Modal verbs of obligation and permission

1 Choose the correct option.

- 1 You *can't* / *don't need to* leave work at 5 p.m. You must stay till at least 5:30.
- 2 All employees *can't* / *must* tidy their desks at the end of the day. The manager says it's necessary.
- 3 Because there are no restaurants in this area, you *need to* / *don't need to* bring sandwiches for lunch.
- 4 We *don't need to* / *mustn't* make personal calls at work. The boss gets really angry.
- 5 You *can't* / *don't need to* wear a jacket or a tie, but jeans are not an option.
- 6 The receptionist *doesn't have to* / *mustn't* follow the rules.

2 Complete the sentences with *mustn't*, *don't/doesn't have to* or *have to*.

- 1 Sarah has got a lot of money. She _____ to work.
- 2 The train leaves at 8 a.m. tomorrow. You _____ be late!
- 3 You _____ tidy your desk now. You can do it tomorrow.
- 4 We _____ forget to lock the office before we leave.
- 5 The lecture starts at 4 p.m., so you _____ arrive on time. You can't be late.
- 6 I _____ be home early at the weekend. I can stay out later.

3 Choose one of the places below and write four rules people must follow there.

- Swimming pool
- Cinema
- Museum

Answer key

1

- 1 can't
- 2 must
- 3 need to
- 4 mustn't
- 5 don't need to
- 6 doesn't have to

2

- 1 doesn't have to
- 2 mustn't
- 3 don't have to
- 4 mustn't
- 5 have to
- 6 don't have to

3

Model answers

Swimming pool

- 1 You mustn't run.
- 2 You have to wear a swimming hat.
- 3 You need to put your clothes in a locker.
- 4 You can jump in at the deep end.

Cinema

- 1 You mustn't use your mobile phone.
- 2 You have to show your ticket before you go into the cinema.
- 3 You need to sit in the seat number that your ticket shows.
- 4 You can eat sweets and crisps.

Museum

- 1 You mustn't take photos.
- 2 You don't need to buy a ticket – it's free!
- 3 You can eat and drink in the café, but not in the museum.
- 4 You have to talk quietly.