

Read these diagrams and find out the difference between these two modal verbs

MODAL
VERBS

MUST vs. HAVE TO

Woodward
ENGLISH

MUST

The *speaker* thinks it is necessary.
Personal opinion.
Written rules/instructions.

HAVE TO

Another person thinks it is necessary.
External obligation.
Facts, not opinions.

The teacher is giving the students an obligation / instructions.

TEACHER: You **must** complete the essay by Friday.

STUDENT: We **have to** complete the essay by Friday.

The teacher has given us the obligation / instructions.

We use **Had to** instead of **Must** in the past tense.

- *I had to pay my speeding ticket yesterday.*

Have to is more common than **Must** in questions.

- *When do you have to finish the report?*

www.grammar.cl

www.woodwardenglish.com

www.vocabulary.cl

Xodal
Verbs

Mustn't vs. Don't have to

Woodward
ENGLISH

BE CAREFUL: There is a difference in meaning between *Mustn't* and *Don't have to*.

Mustn't

MEANING

It is prohibited; it is not allowed.
It is important that you do NOT do something.

You **must not** drink that.

= It is forbidden to drink that.
= Don't drink that, it is not allowed.

You **mustn't** tell John.

= Do NOT tell John.
= You are not allowed to tell John.

Don't have to

MEANING

There is no obligation; you are not required to do something, especially if you don't want to.

You **don't have to** drink that.

= You don't need to drink that but you can if you want to.

You **don't have to** tell John.

= You can tell John if you want to but it is not necessary.

www.grammar.cl

www.woodwardenglish.com

www.vocabulary.cl