

Modals of Obligation

Must: ☹️

Used for: formal rules (UK+US) (also prohibitions – mustn't)

Logical conclusions (UK+US): e.g. I've heard it from 6 manager students so it **MUST** be true.

UK: Self-imposed obligations, e.g. Sorry, I really **must** be going now.

Have to: 😊

General obligations from someone else

= muset in Czech, also good for nemuset

I don't have to think!

[*need to* is a slightly softer version of *have to*, so it's good for polite commands]

US: Self-imposed obligations, e.g. Sorry, I **have to** go now.

Should: ☹️

Recommendations, moral obligations

e.g. You **should** stop complaining about your wonderful English teachers 😊

I **should** *have* visited my grandmother more often. She died in 1985.

[*Ought to* works exactly like *should*]

To be

supposed to: 😊

Used when you are expected to do something or you have agreed to do it.

e.g. The bus was **supposed to** *have arrived* at 5 pm but it is already 3 hours late.

I was **supposed to** help my mum with the tidying up but I got distracted Skyping with Gotye.