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Mustn't vs. Don't Have To

Medium | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Modal verb | English Grammar Basics

1. Fill in the highly caffeinated fitness instructor's welcome speech by choosing the right rule for each sentence.

Welcome to the gym! Please remember that you _____ drop the heavy weights on the floor, because the yoga class downstairs is trying to meditate. Also, relax! You _____ run on the treadmill for an entire hour; a brisk 20-minute walk is perfectly fine for beginners!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** mustn't
- **B)** don't have to
- **C)** can't have

Blank 2

- **A)** mustn't
- **B)** don't have to
- **C)** can't have

2. Help the secret agent understand the rather alarming warning label on his new spy car. Choose the correct phrase to complete the sentence.

"You can deploy the oil slick whenever you like, but you _____ press the big red button, or the car will instantly self-destruct!"

Select one.

- **A)** mustn't
- **B)** don't have to
- **C)** haven't got to
- **D)** doesn't have to

3. Complete the neighbor's frantic notes about house-sitting their highly spoiled cat, Lord Fluffington.

"Thanks for watching Lord Fluffington! You _____ cook him gourmet meals; the canned food in the pantry is perfectly fine. However, you _____ look him directly in the eyes after midnight, or he will hold a grudge for a week."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** don't have to
- **B)** mustn't
- **C)** haven't to

Blank 2

- **A)** don't have to
- **B)** mustn't
- **C)** don't must

4. Help the quirky museum guide establish the rules for the new "Interactive Prehistory" exhibit! Select ALL the sentences that correctly use modal verbs based on their meaning.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** You mustn't touch the authentic T-Rex skull, or security will chase you!
- **B)** You don't have to wear the 3D glasses if they give you a headache.
- **C)** You don't have to climb on the priceless artifacts; it's strictly forbidden!
- **D)** You mustn't tip the tour guide, but it is always highly appreciated.

5. Complete the professor's reassuring email to a highly caffeinated and stressed-out freshman.

"Please get some sleep! The supplementary reading on the syllabus is purely for fun, so you _____ read chapters 4 and 5 for tomorrow's class."

Select one.

A) mustn't
B) don't have to
C) hasn't to
D) must not

6. Help Agent 007 review the rules for infiltrating the villain's secret lair by choosing the correct verb for each gap in the briefing notes.

Listen carefully, Agent. You _____ press the giant red button on the control panel, or the entire volcano base will explode. On a lighter note, you _____ wear a tuxedo to the infiltration, but it certainly does make you look dashing!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) mustn't
B) don't have to
C) must

Blank 2

A) mustn't
B) don't have to
C) must

7. Read the welcome note from your eccentric new boss and choose the correct words to complete it.

"Welcome to the team! You _____ wear a suit to the office, pajamas are perfectly fine, but you absolutely _____ touch Dave's favorite coffee mug under any circumstances."

Select one.

A) don't have to / mustn't
B) mustn't / don't have to
C) don't have to / don't have to
D) mustn't / mustn't

8. Fill in the blanks in the Time Travel Agency's strict employee handbook.

"As a junior chrononaut, you _____ interact with your past self under any circumstances, as this will destroy the universe. On the bright side, you _____ memorize every historical date, since your temporal tablet has a built-in search engine."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) don't have to
B) mustn't
C) haven't to

Blank 2

A) don't have to
B) mustn't
C) don't must

9. Complete this mildly passive-aggressive roommate agreement by choosing the correct modal verb for each blank.

As per our new apartment rules, please note that you _____ cook me dinner every night, though I would really appreciate it if you did. However, you _____ eat my leftover pizza without asking, or there will be severe and immediate consequences.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) don't have to
B) mustn't
C) should

Blank 2

A) don't have to
B) mustn't
C) should

10. Roommate negotiations can be tricky! Read the sticky notes left around the apartment and select ALL the sentences that use the correct modal verbs for the situation.

Select all that apply.

A) You mustn't feed my pet tarantula; she is on a very strict diet!
B) You don't have to iron my superhero cape; I like it a little wrinkly.
C) You don't have to leave the stove turned on overnight!
D) You mustn't buy toilet paper this week; I already bought a giant pack.