

11 'Must not' and 'need not'

Must not is used to express an obligation not to do something; *need not* to express the absence of obligation to do something:

Students *must not* wear jackets. (i.e. There is a rule against the wearing of jackets.)

Students *need not* wear jackets. (i.e. Students can wear jackets if they wish to but they are not obliged to.)

Other examples:

The patient *must not* be allowed out of the hospital.

The patient *need not* be given another injection.

These trousers *must not* be washed in boiling water.

These trousers *need not* be shortened.

As *must not* can be used with only present and future meaning, the verb *have* *not to* is used for the other tenses:

She *won't have to* go into hospital.

He *didn't have to* wait long for an answer.

EXERCISE 47

Complete these sentences by supplying *must not* or *need not* as appropriate:

- 1 You ... make tea without first boiling the water.
- 2 You ... shout as I am not deaf.
- 3 You ... hurry as we're not late.
- 4 Borrowers ... keep books longer than three weeks.
- 5 One ... smoke at the petrol station.
- 6 As your hair is not very long you ... have it cut for another week.
- 7 You ... wear your tie to the party but you ... forget to put on a clean shirt.
- 8 I ... play my radio too loud or I will annoy my neighbours.
- 9 Women who have a profession ... get married just for the sake of money.
- 10 Members of the team ... train tomorrow as Saturday's match has been cancelled.
- 11 This boy ... take any more tablets as he is better already.
- 12 The dentist told me that I ... visit him again for six months but I ... eat so many sweets.
- 13 He ... stay too late at the dance or he will miss the last bus home.
- 14 You ... eat these bananas as they are not yet ripe, but you ... go hungry while we have so many oranges.
- 15 I ... stay talking too long or my dinner will get cold.

12 'Did not need to' and 'need not have'

He *didn't need to* come to the meeting.

He *needn't have* come to the meeting.

Both these sentences imply that it was unnecessary for him to come to the meeting. The first sentence implies that probably he did not come to the meeting because before it took place he realised his presence was not necessary. The second sentence implies that he came to the meeting and he later realised (or somebody else later realised) that it was unnecessary for him to be there.

EXERCISE 48

Supply *didn't need to* or *needn't have* and the appropriate form of the verb as required in the following sentences:

- 1 You ... (tell) me as I knew already.
- 2 She ... (ask) for a loan as some money from her father was already on the way although she didn't realise it.
- 3 She ... (ask) for a loan as she had plenty of money. (She knew she had plenty of money.)
- 4 My uncle ... (build) a new house since the one he had was big enough. (He regretted it afterwards.)
- 5 My uncle ... (build) a new house and decided instead simply to add two rooms to the one he already had.
- 6 We ... (put) more petrol in our tank since we had quite enough for the rest of the journey. (We realised it at the time.)
- 7 We ... (put) more petrol in our tank since we had enough for the rest of the journey. (We didn't realise it at the time.)
- 8 I ... (ask) permission to leave since anybody could leave whenever they liked. (I didn't know that at the time.)
- 9 I ... (ask) permission to leave since anybody could leave whenever they liked. (I knew I could leave.)
- 10 He ... (rewrite) the sentence since it was right. (It was only later when his teacher gave him back his work that he realised the original sentence was right.)