

**Module** English

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**Second year**

### **Lesson four: expressing obligation**

#### **Objective:**

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to form structurally sound sentences expressing varying degrees of obligation.

#### **Introduction**

Welcome to today's lesson on expressing obligation in English! Being able to communicate duties and responsibilities is essential in everyday conversations, whether in the workplace, at school, or in personal relationships. In this session, we will explore how to articulate obligations using modal verbs like "must," "have to," "should," and "need to." Understanding the nuances of these expressions will empower you to convey a range of obligations effectively. So, let us dive into the world of obligation and learn how to express responsibilities with clarity and precision.

#### **Example:**

"I must do my homework because my teacher said so."

"I have to go to school every day."

**The distinctions between the modal verbs "must," "have to," "should," and "need to" when expressing obligation:**

#### **1. Must**

**Form:** Subject + must + base verb

**Example:** "You must submit your assignment by Friday."

#### **Usage:**

Indicates a strong obligation or necessity.

Often used in rules, regulations, or personal obligations.

#### **2. Have to:**

**Form:** Subject + have to + base verb

**Example:** "I have to attend a meeting this afternoon."

#### **Usage:**

Expresses external obligations or requirements.

May suggest a sense of duty imposed by external factors.

### 3. Should:

**Form:** Subject + should + base verb

**Example:** "You should review the material before the exam."

**Usage:**

Indicates a recommendation or advice.

Less strong than "must" or "have to," often implying a suggestion.

### 4. Need to:

**Form:** Subject + need to + base verb

**Example:** "We need to finish the project by the end of the week."

**Usage:**

Implies necessity, similar to "must" and "have to."

Often used in contexts where there is an inherent requirement or duty.

### Key Distinctions:

#### 1. Strength of Obligation:

"Must" and "have to" often convey a stronger sense of obligation compared to "should" and "need to."

#### 2. Source of Obligation:

"Must" and "have to" can indicate external obligations, while "should" and "need to" may involve internal or external factors.

#### Examples:

- You must wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle. (Strong obligation)
- I have to submit the report before the deadline. (External obligation)
- You should try the new restaurant downtown. (Suggestion)
- We need to address this issue immediately. (Necessity)

#### Practice:

##### - Complete the sentences:

1. To succeed in the exam, you **\*\*should\*\*** dedicate more time to studying.
2. As a responsible team member, you **\*\*have to\*\*** submit your part of the project by Friday.
3. I understand it's a busy week, but we **\*\*need to\*\*** finish this report before the week-end

4. In order to maintain a healthy work-life balance, employees **\*\*should\*\*** take breaks during the day.
5. Students **\*\*must\*\*** bring their textbooks to class every day.
6. Before leaving the office, you **\*\*should\*\*** double-check your work to avoid any errors.