**Obligation and Necessity:**

We use both have to and must to to talk about obligation, but there are some differences.

Have to:

**Positive Present simple statements:**

(He- she- it) + has to + infinitive

(I-You- We- they) + Have to + infinitive

**Present simple Questions:**

Do/ Does+ subject+ have to+ infinitive

**Example**: Does the extension have to comply with building regulations?

**Past simple:** had to + infinitive

**Present perfect**: have had to + infinitive

**Future**: will have to + infinitive

**Note**: Have to can’t be used in the continuous tense

**Example**: He had/ have had to obtain planning permission before building the extension Not ~~I was having to obtain planning permission before building the extension~~

We use have to/ has to when we want to talk about something that we can or cannot do because of the circumstances, or because of a legal requirement.

**Example**: I can’t come tomorrow because I have to go to a meeting with the planning department. (Circumstances)

All appliances have to be earthed (legal requirement)

**Negative present simple statements:**

(He- she- it) + doesn’t have to + infinitive

(I-You- We- they) + don’t have to + infinitive

We use **don’t/ doesn’t have to t**o talk about something that is not necessary. There is no sense of obligation.

**Example**: your home doesn’t have to have solar energy panels , but it would save you a lot of money on bills.

People won’t have to worry about small rooms, as interior space will be more flexible.

**Must/ Mustn’t**

We use **must/ mustn’t + infinitive** to talk about obligation. It has a similar meaning to the usage of have to for a legal requirement.

**Example**: All appliances must be earthed.

We can also use must/ mustn’t to indicate personal authority

**Example**: you must send me the plans by the end of this week. (I am telling you to do this)

You have to send me the plans by the end of this week. (Because of circumstances or a legal requirement)

**Note** Must/ Mustn’t are only used in the present simple. Their forms never change .

**Example**: the new extension must comply with building regulations.

Fire exits must be accessible and mustn’t be blocked.

**Note:** The question form is rarely used. Instead, we use have to

**Example**: Does the new extension have to comply with building regulations?

Similarly, if we want to talk about obligation in the past or future, we use the appropriate form of have to.

**Example**: In some countries, any new building must be less than three storeys. But by 2020 all building will have to be earthquake resistant.

Note the difference between don’t have to and mustn’t:

You don’t have to spend a lot of heating on earth house. (= it’s not necessary)

You mustn’t build an earth house without planning permission. (= it’s not permitted)