

NOTE: *Need* can be used as a main verb or as a modal verb with no difference in meaning. When it is used as a main verb it is followed by a *to* - infinitive and takes *-s* in the third person singular. We form questions and negations with *do/does*. e.g. *Mike needs to buy some new clothes. You don't need to do this right now.*
Need is used as a modal verb mainly in questions and negations. e.g. *Need I book a room in advance? (Also: Do I need to book ...?) You needn't give me a lift home. (Also: You don't need to ...)*

Absence of Necessity (Needn't/Don't have to/Don't need to/Didn't need to-Needn't have done)



You don't need to look up his phone number. I've got it right here.

- ◆ **needn't/don't have to/don't need to + present infinitive (present or future) = it isn't necessary to do sth**
e.g. *You needn't/don't have to/don't need to work tonight. (It isn't necessary for you to work tonight.)*
- ◆ **didn't need to/didn't have to = it was not necessary to do sth**
This structure suggests that an action did not happen in the past because we knew then that it was not necessary.
e.g. *She didn't need to/didn't have to take a taxi. (It wasn't necessary, so she didn't.)*
- ◆ **needn't + bare perfect infinitive = it was not necessary to do sth, but it was done**
This structure shows that an action happened in the past, even though it was not necessary.
e.g. *You needn't have bought any bread. I'd already bought some. (It wasn't necessary, but you did.)*

Prohibition (Mustn't/Can't)



- ◆ **mustn't/can't = it is forbidden to do sth/you are not allowed to do sth/it is against the rules/law to do sth**
e.g. *You mustn't/can't drive over 35 mph. (= It's against the law. You are not allowed to drive over 35 mph.)*

1

Fill in the gaps with *can, can't, could, couldn't* or *was/wasn't able to*.

- 1 I had my hands full, so I ...*couldn't/wasn't able to*... open the door.
- 2 When I was young, I stand on my head.
- 3 Although he felt ill, he finish all the paperwork.
- 4 Tony is clever. He speak three languages.
- 5 I afford that bag. It's too expensive.
- 6 Although it was dark, he find his way through the woods.
- 7 I heard his voice calling me, but I see him.
- 8 We're busy tonight, so we come to the party.
- 9 When I entered the house, I smell fresh bread baking.
- 10 I drive a car. I learnt when I was eighteen.

2

Fill in the gaps with *must, mustn't* or *needn't/don't have to*.

- 1 A: You ...*must*... study hard to pass the exams.
B: I know. I study every evening.
- 2 A: You be late for your job interview.
B: I know. I'll leave early so as to get there on time.
- 3 A: Shall I collect the children from the party?
B: No, you collect them. Mrs Shaw is giving them a lift home.
- 4 A: Do you want me to wait for you after work?
B: No, you wait. I can walk home by myself.
- 5 A: You interrupt while people are talking.
B: No. It's very bad manners to do that.
- 6 A: My dog has been ill all week.
B: Oh dear! You take him to the vet.
- 7 A: It's Sally's birthday on Wednesday.
B: I know. I remember to buy her a present.
- 8 A: Shall I wash the dishes for you?
B: No, you do that. I'll do them later.

3

Fill the gaps with *needn't have* or *didn't need to* and the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I ran all the way to work, but I ...*needn't have hurried*... (hurry) because I was the first person to arrive.
- 2 We (hurry), so we stopped to have lunch on the way.
- 3 I went to college today, but I (go) as all the lectures were cancelled.
- 4 I (ask) the way to Lewes, since I'd been there before.
- 5 I (buy) any food, so I didn't go to the supermarket.
- 6 I (buy) any food after all, because we had plenty at home.
- 7 I (pack) my shorts, as it rained all week.
- 8 We (pack) many things, as we would only be away for one night.