

Unit 34: HAVE TO / NEED TO / NEEDN'T

We use these verbs to talk about necessity.

1 Formation

a	have to / need to	We can make all verb formations with these verbs. For example:
	Present simple (Unit 19)	He has to work nine hours a day, but he doesn't have to work very hard. Let's stop. We don't need to finish today.
	Past simple (Unit 21)	Did they have to go out? Yes, they had to go to the airport. I needed to buy a number of things, but I didn't have enough money.
	Present perfect (Unit 24)	She has had to stay behind to look after the children.
	With modal verbs (Unit 27)	I may have to go to Winnipeg soon. If she takes that job, they will need to move to another city.

NOTICE: We always use base form (Unit 14) after **to**. We say **he had to go** (NOT *he had to went*).

- b **needn't** is a modal verb (Unit 27)
We **needn't finish** today.

2 Use: necessity

- a **general** Students **don't** usually **have to pay** tax.
You **need to get** a visa before you travel.
- b **present and future time** I **have to finish** this report today.
We can't find a babysitter; we'll **have to stay** in tonight.
You **needn't write** it now. You can do it later.

NOTICE: We also use **have got to** for present and future necessity (Unit 36.3).

c **past time**

There were no buses. I **had to get** a taxi.

He said that they **had to go**.

NOTICE: The meanings of **have to**, **need to** and **needn't** are not exactly the same (Unit 35).