

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).