

## Lesson Plan: Modals of obligation (must, should) + have to

**Level:** Intermediate (B1–B2)

**Time:** 60–90 minutes

**Skill Focus:** Grammar + Speaking

**Target Language:** *must, should, have to*

### Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between **strong obligation, external rules**, and **advice**
- Use *must, have to, and should* accurately in context
- Talk about rules, responsibilities, and advice in real-life situations

### Materials

- Whiteboard / slides
- Handout or worksheet (optional)
- Situation cards (optional)

## 1. Warm-up (10 minutes)

### Activity: "Rules & advice" discussion

1. Write these prompts on the board:
  - One rule at school/work/home
  - One thing people *should* do to stay healthy
2. Students discuss in pairs.
3. Elicit examples and write some sentences on the board:

*"You must wear a uniform."*

*"I have to wake up early."*

*"You should eat more vegetables."*

→ Don't correct yet—just collect examples.

## 2. Presentation (20 minutes)

### A. Meaning & use

Create a simple comparison chart:

verb	meaning	example
<b>must</b>	Strong obligation (speaker's opinion)	You <b>must</b> stop smoking.
<b>have to</b>	External rule or law	I <b>have to</b> wear a uniform.
<b>should</b>	Advice / recommendation	You <b>should</b> get more sleep.

### Key Concept Clarification

*Must* = speaker thinks it's necessary

*Have to* = rule, law, or situation

*Should* = good idea, not a rule

### B. Form

verb	structure
must	subject + must + base verb
have to	subject + have/has to + base verb
should	subject + should + base verb

### Negative Forms

must not / mustn't → prohibition

don't / doesn't have to → no obligation

shouldn't → advice not to do something

Example:

- You **mustn't** cheat on exams.

- You **don't have to** come early.
- You **shouldn't** eat too much sugar.

### **3. Controlled practice (15 minutes)**

#### **Activity 1: choose the correct modal**

Students complete sentences individually or in pairs:

1. You \_\_\_\_ wear a seatbelt. (law)
2. I think you \_\_\_\_ talk to your teacher.
3. Students \_\_\_\_ bring ID to the exam.
4. You \_\_\_\_ eat junk food every day.

#### **Answers**

1. have to
2. should
3. must / have to
4. shouldn't

### **4. Semi-controlled practice (15 minutes)**

#### **Activity 2: situation matching**

Give students situations and ask them to write 2–3 sentences using different modals.

#### **Example Situations**

- New job
- Healthy lifestyle
- School rules
- Traveling abroad

#### **Model Answer**

At my job, I **have to** arrive on time.  
I **must** respect my boss.  
I **should** be friendly with coworkers.

## 5. Communicative practice (20 minutes)

### Activity 3: Advice role-play

Students work in pairs.

#### Roles

- Student A: Has a problem (stress, bad grades, unhealthy habits)
- Student B: Gives advice using *should*, *must*, *have to*

#### Example Prompt

"I'm always tired and failing exams."

#### Expected Language

- You **should** sleep more.
- You **must** manage your time better.
- You **have to** study regularly.

Teacher monitors and notes common errors.

## 6. Feedback & error correction (10 minutes)

- Write common mistakes on the board anonymously.
- Students correct them together.
- Highlight:  
*must* vs. *have to*, *don't have to* ≠ *mustn't*

## 7. Homework / Extension

- Write a short paragraph about "rules and advice for a new student at your school/workplace."
- Prepare 5 rules and 5 pieces of advice for a specific situation (gym, job, travel).