

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
must	Strong obligation (speaker's opinion)	You must stop smoking.
have to	External rule or law	I have to wear a uniform.
should	Advice / recommendation	You should 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).