

NECESSITY AND PROHIBITION: MUST/MUSTN'T

Modal Verbs

Must comes first in the verb phrase (after the subject and before another verb):

Example: She must have lots of friends.

Must can't be used with another modal verb.

Example: This must be your sister.

Not: This must can be your sister, or, This can must be your sister.

The negative form of must is mustn't. We don't use don't/doesn't/didn't with must:

There mustn't be any rubbish left.

Not: There doesn't must be any rubbish left.

We can use the full form must not in formal contexts or when we want to emphasise something:

Example: You must not leave any rubbish.

To express obligation or duty

This also refers to laws and regulations.

- I **must** memorize all of these rules about modal verbs.
- People **must** remain seated until the show is over.
- You **must** wear a seatbelt at all times.

The negative is *Mustn't* which refers to prohibition (negative obligation)

Mustn't = Must not

- You **mustn't** use your smartphone while you are driving.
- You **mustn't** get on the subway if you haven't paid for the ride.
- You **must not** open the gift until it is your birthday.
- We **must not** tell anyone.

Reference:

Cambridge Dictionary (s.f.). Must.

Retrieved from: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/must>