
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English In A Minute

Mustn't vs don't have to



This is not a word-for-word transcript

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Hi guys! This is Kee from BBC Learning English. Today, I'm going to tell you the differences between **mustn't** and **don't have to**.

Now, **must** and **have to** are similar in meaning. They are both used to describe obligations. However, their negative forms are completely different in meaning.

We still use **mustn't** to talk about obligations. For example: **In the house, I mustn't wear shoes.** You know, to keep the house clean.

But **don't have to** does not describe obligations, so the choice is yours! For example, if your teacher said: **you don't have to do your homework**, well... then choice is yours. You can say: Alright, I won't!