

Nuala's grammar explanation:

Have to/don't have to

Nuala: To talk about things we have no choice about, things we're obliged to do, we can use 'have to'. Listen again:

Anna: But I have to wear a uniform.

She has no choice about it. The rules of her job are that she has to wear a uniform. To form that we use 'have to' or 'has to', followed by the base form of the verb (that's the infinitive with 'to'). She has to wear a uniform. He has to get up early. They have to do their homework.

To talk about things you can choose to do or not, we use 'don't have to'. So here we're not talking about rules at all, but about things you can decide to do or not. Listen again:

Anna: We don't have to live near the hospital.

Nurses can choose to live close to their work or not. It's up to them.

Anna: We don't have to live near the hospital.

To form this, we use 'don't' or 'doesn't have to', followed by the base form of the main verb. They don't have to live near the hospital. She doesn't have to work late. We don't have to eat breakfast.

So, to recap. For things that are rules you use 'have to' or 'has to', followed by the base form of the verb. To talk about things that aren't rules, things we can choose to do or not, we use 'don't' or 'doesn't have to' followed by the base form.

That's all from me, good luck with your grammar challenge!

Find out more

Positive

We use 'have to' to talk about things we must do, things we are obliged to do.

Subject	have to / has to	base form of verb
I You We They	have to	wear a uniform . get up early on Sundays . study hard.
He She	has to	

Negative

We use 'don't have to' to talk about things we have a choice about, things we aren't obliged to do.

Subject	don't / doesn't have to	base form of verb
I You We They	don't have to	wear a uniform. get up early on Sundays. study hard!
He She	doesn't have to	