Random Thoughts 14

# Must / have to

These have similar meanings. Sometimes they can be used interchangeably [互換的に], but not at other times. “Must” is stronger than “have to”. “Have to” means “need to”. In other words, it is necessary but not required. “Must” implies [ほのめかす] a requirement [要件].

## Affirmative examples

I **must** go to the dentist.

I **have to** go to the dentist.

I **need to** go to the dentist.

I **must** remember to buy milk.

I **have to** remember to buy milk.

I **need to** remember to buy milk.

First you **must** go to Immigration.

First you **have to** go to Immigration.

First you **need to** go to Immigration.

**Must** I read everything?

Do I **have to** read everything?

Do I **need to** read everything?

## Negative examples

You **must not** speak so loudly. そんなに大声で話してはいけません。

You **don’t have to** speak so loudly. 大声で話す必要はありません。

You **don’t need to speak** so loudly. 大声で話す必要はありません。

I **must not** forget to renew my driver’s license.

I **have to / need to** remember to renew my driver’s license.

[*We cannot say, “I don’t have to forget…” because that would have the opposite meaning of “it would be OK to forget”.*]

The children **must not** go to the park alone.

[*This is a strong command or requirement, so* ***have to / need to*** *cannot be used because to use them would change the meaning just like in the previous example.*]

**Must** can also be used as a noun meaning “requirement”.

Example: “That is a **must**.”