**7.1** **Advice, obligation and prohibition**

**1 Advice**

* We use *should* or *ought to* to give advice. The negative forms  
  *are shouldn’t* and (less commonly) *ought not to.*

I should do more exercise.

You shouldn't laugh at her. It's unkind.

* We often use *I* *think* when we give advice with *should.*

I think you should ask her out.

Note that I *think + shouldn’t* sounds unnatural; it is better to  
use *I* *don’t think + should.*

I don't think you should go there again.

* We also use *should* and *ought to* for giving opinions about  
  what the right thing to do is.

We all ought to use our oars less.

* We can use *must* for giving strong advice to ourselves.

I really must start going to bed earlier.

* We can also use *must* for making strong recommendations to  
  others, based on our own opinions.

You must try this pasta, it's delicious.

You must comb your hair. It looks terrible!

1. ***have to, must, don’t have to* and *mustn’t***

* We use *have to* to talk about obligation.

We. have to study English at our school. (It's compulsory.)

* We use *I have to...* for things that we are obliged to do; we use *I must...* for things that we strongly feel we should do. Compare:

I must start walking to school. It would be good exercise:

I have to start walking to school. They’ve cancelled the only bus.

* We use *don’t* / *doesn’t have to* for things that we do not need to do. It expresses a lack of obligation; it does not express prohibition.

You don't have to pay me back now. Give me the money tomorrow.

* We use *mustn’t for* prohibition.

You mustn't touch those flowers. They’re very delicate.

1. ***need to, don’t need to* and *needn’t***

* We use *need* to to express necessity.

You need to dial 44 if you're calling the UK from abroad.

* We can use *don’t I doesn’t need to or needn’t to* express a lack of necessity. Often, both are possible, particularly when we are giving somebody permission not to do something. (Note that we use needn’t without to.)

You needn't bring any food. / You don't need to bring any food. We've got lots at home.

* We tend to use *don’t need to* rather than *needn’t when* we are stating a general fact.

You don't need to pay for healthcare in the UK.

**1 Choose the best answers.**

1. Let’s go to bed. We **have to / must** get up early tomorrow.
2. You really **don’t have to / mustn’t** speak to me like that. it’s rude.
3. He wants to know how much you earn, but I don’t think you **should / must** teil him.
4. You **needn’t / must** go and see the new Jude Law film. It’s wonderful!
5. If you’re a member of the sports club, you **don’t need to / needn’t** pay to use the swimming pool.
6. It’s a well-paid job, but she **has to / must** work long hours.