

Activity Type

Speaking Game:
matching, forming
sentences (pair work)

Focus

Modal verbs of necessity:
must, mustn't, need to
and *needn't*.

Aim

To practice making
sentences with the modal
verbs of necessity *must,*
mustn't, need to and
needn't.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
modal verb cards and
action cards for each
pair of students and cut
as indicated, keeping the
two sets separate.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This modals of necessity game helps students practice making sentences with the modal verbs of necessity *must, mustn't, need to* and *needn't*.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair a set of modal verb cards and a set of action cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the two sets of cards separately and spread them out face-down on the desk in two sets.

Students take it in turns to turn over a modal verb of necessity card and an action card.

If the two cards can be combined to make a meaningful sentence, e.g. 'mustn't' and 'drive fast', the student reads out the sentence and adds a justification, e.g. 'You mustn't drive fast because you might have an accident'.

If the student does this successfully, they keep the cards and have another turn.

If the cards don't match or the student can't justify the sentence, the cards are turned back over.

The other student then turns over two cards and tries to make a sentence and so on.

The game continues until all the cards have been matched.

The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, review the students' sentences together as a class.

Modal verb cards

must

must

must

must

mustn't

mustn't

mustn't

mustn't

must

must

must

must

mustn't

mustn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

need to

need to

need to

need to

needn't

needn't

need to

need to

Action cards



| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| lose your keys | go to the bank | eat too much | be late for class |
| wash your hair | do homework | get up early | go to the doctor |
| drive fast | use your phone | study hard | hurry |
| do the shopping | exercise every day | clean the house | sleep in class |
| stop smoking | go to the dentist | have a shower | be nice to people |
| pay your bills | eat healthily | go on a diet | get a haircut |
| get angry | talk loudly | be careful | go to bed early |