

Activity Type

Matching and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Modal verbs of necessity

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 (A2-B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This necessity game helps students to 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.

Tell 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, he or she keeps the cards and has 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.

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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