

## Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

## Focus

Obligation in the past  
had to  
didn't have to

## Aim

To ask and answer questions about past obligation using 'had to' and 'didn't have to'.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

## Level

Intermediate (B1)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

This had to and didn't have to activity helps to teach students how to express obligation in the past. In the activity, students ask and answer questions about what they were obligated to do when they were children.

## Procedure

Tell the students that they are going to find out about what their classmates were obligated to do when they were children.

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go over the language on the worksheet and explain that the students need to turn each statement into a question, e.g. 'When you were young, did you have to go to school by bus?' or 'Did you have to go to school by bus?'

Give the students time to prepare the questions they need for the activity and then review the questions with the class.

Students also create two more questions of their own at the bottom of the worksheet.

When the students have finished, they go around the class asking one another their questions.

When a student finds someone who answers 'Yes, I did' to a question made from a positive statement, they write that person's name in the second column.

If the question is about a negative statement, the student needs to find someone who answers 'No, I didn't'.

When a student writes down someone's name, they ask a follow-up question to gain more information and write the answer in the last column.

It is important to tell the students that they can only have the same name once (or twice). This is to encourage them to speak to as many different partners as possible.

Afterwards, get feedback from the class on what they found out, ensuring the accurate usage of 'had to' and 'didn't have to'.

Any interesting findings can be discussed in more detail.

## When you were young...

When they were young, which students...	Name	More information
... had to go to school by bus.		
... had to be home by a certain time.		
... didn't have to do the washing-up after dinner.		
... had to look after a pet.		
... had to learn how to play a musical instrument.		
... had to do homework every school night.		
... had to wear a uniform to school.		
... didn't have to share a room with a brother or sister.		
... had to visit relatives at the weekend.		
... had to help with the housework.		
... didn't have to look after a younger brother or sister.		
... had to ask permission before going out to play with friends.		
... had to go to bed at a certain time.		
... had .....		
... didn't have to .....		