

Obligation in English

Have to

● **Have to** is used to express strong obligation. It expresses a general obligation based on **a law or rule**, or based on the **authority of a person**. It is impersonal obligation. The obligation comes from outside.

Children **have to** go to school until they are 10. (a law)

In France, you **have to** drive on the right. (=)

Ali **has to** wear tie at work. (=)

You **have to** clean your room before you leave. (person's authority)

You **have to** listen for what your father says. (=)

Should and Ought to

● **Should and ought to** express mild obligation, suggestions and advice. They express what in the speaker's opinion, is right or best thing to do. We often use them with *I think / I don't think....*

You are always asking for money. **I think** you **should** spend less.

You **shouldn't** sit so close to the television! It's bad for your eyes.

You **ought to** be more careful with your money.

I **ought to** phone my sister.

Must

● **Must**, like have to, expresses strong obligation. **Must** expresses an obligation that is the speaker's opinion (feelings). It is personal (not from outside). It is used to say that something is essential or necessary.

I **must** get my hair cut. (This is me talking to me.)

I **must** go home.

I **must** stop smoking.

He **must** work harder.

You **must** go and visit your grandmother. (A parent talking to a child.)

Clauses of purpose: in order to; to; so as to; so that; for

Clauses of purpose are connectors which are used when one action (or clause) results in, explains, or provides an intention for another clause (usually the one with the main verb) within a sentence.

Example 1

Amil took out his pen **in order to** write a letter.

Note that the clause of purpose results in one clause (Amil took out his pen) explaining the subsequent clause (to write a letter). The purpose of Amil taking out his pen was to write.

Example 2

Jonas picked up his fork **to** eat his dinner.

Again, the connector (**to**) is used to explain the purpose of the action described by the main verb: why did Jonas pick up his fork? The purpose of picking up his fork was to eat his dinner.

Example 3

Jane stood up, **so as to** get the best view of the game.

Example 4

Kelvin switched on the light, **so that** he could see the room.

Example 5

I have a birthday present **for** my friend.

To ensure that a clause of purpose is used correctly, students may find it helpful to consider the sentence as the answer to a question. For example, why do I have a birthday present? I have a birthday present for my friend.

Clauses of reason: as/since; because; because of; due to

A clause of reason is usually used to describe why something happened due to the action described by the main clause.

Example 1

Because of the rain, we stayed indoors.

Note that the reason we stayed indoors was because of the rain.

Example 2

As it was dark, we used a torch.

This could also be written: **since** it was dark, we used a torch.

Again, it can be helpful in using clauses of reason correctly if you look for the reason in the sentence that explains the main clause. In this case, the reason we used a torch was because of (or **due to**) the dark.

Example 3

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the party was cancelled.

Note that clauses of reason are usually placed at the start of a sentence.

Clauses of result: so; for this reason; as a result; as a consequence; therefore

Clauses of result are used when one clause comes about as a consequence, or direct result, of the main clause. When x occurs, y will happen. Clauses of result are normally used when there is no doubt regarding the outcome of the action described in the main clause.

Example 1

George's book was wet as **a result** of being dropped in a puddle.

Note that the outcome is beyond doubt: it is inevitable that the result of a book being dropped in a puddle is that it is going to be wet.

Example 2

As a consequence of the delayed train, the guests were late .

Again, note that the guests' lateness is a direct result of the activity described in the main clause.

Example 3

It was cold, **therefore** we lit a fire.

Example 4

The house was large and **for this reason**, there was plenty of room for visitors.

Exercise 1

1) He opened the window. He wanted to let fresh air in.(**in order to**)

He opened the window.....

2)I took my camera because I wanted to take some photos.(**so that**)

I took my camera.....

3)He studied really hard. He wanted to get better marks.(**in order to**)

He studied really hard.....

4)Jason learns Chinese. His aim is to work in China.(**to**)

Jason learns Chinese.....

5) I've collected money so that you can travel with us (**for.....**)

I've collected money.....

6)Many people left Turkey in 1960s.They wanted to find jobs in Germany. (**in order to**)

Many people left Turkey in 1960s.....

7)She attends to a course. She wants to learn chess.(**to**)

She attends to a course.....

8)Linda turned on the lights .She wanted to see better.(**so that**)

Linda turned on the lights.....

9)I will come with you .I want to help you.(**in order to**)

I will come with you.....

10)We are going to cinema. We will watch a horror film.(**to**)

We are going to cinema.....

11)You must take your umbrella so that you won't get wet.(**in order**)

You must take your umbrella.....

12)He waited at the counter because he wanted to see her.(**in order**)

He waited at the counter.....

13)We all put on our coats since we were feeling cold.(**so that**)

We all put.....

Exercise 2

Choose the right option.

1. everything looked so in order, we didn't clean anything else.
 - since
 - due to
 - because of
2. Go down on your handscut the chances of hurting yourself.
 - so as
 - so as to**
 - owing to
3. This is a machine..... polishing wooden floors.
 - used to
 - used
 - for**
4. I decided to do a Swedish course _____ I was going to live there.
 - because of
 - due to
 - since**
5. We couldn't sleep last night at all _____ all the noise downstairs.
 - as to**
 - as
 - due
6. it was already dark, we waited no longer and went home.
 - due to
 - as**
 - because of
- 7.....Mrs. Jones falling ill so suddenly, we've cancelled the conference.
 - because
 - since**
 - because of