

## Modal Verb – Must

The modal verb **must** is used to express both **obligation** and also **deduction**.

**obligation** - being told to do something and you have no choice but to do it

*You **must** have a driving licence to legally drive a car in England.*

*To see a GP you **must** register to be a patient at their practice.*

In these examples the modal verb **must** is positioned before the verbs **have** and **register** and indicates an **obligation**.

*To drive legally you **must** have a driving licence.*

*You **must** register at a doctors surgery if or want to see the doctor.*

If you don't register you won't be able to see a doctor and if you don't have a driving licence you will not be able to drive legally!

**deduction** – a process of thinking in a logical way

*You **must** be happy to have passed your driving test.*

*The medicine **must** be working.*

In these examples we use the modal verb **must** to indicate **deduction**.

When we say, you **must** be happy to have passed your driving test, what we are really saying is that we 'expect' or 'conclude' that the person will be happy because usually people are happy when they pass their driving test. This is a deduction!

Likewise, if we say to someone that the medicine **must** be working, what we are really saying is that we can see an improvement in a persons health and that it must be the result of the medicine! It is a **deduction**.