

## Obligation Verbs

### Ought to, Should, Must and Have to

- In English, we use the modal verbs, *should* and *ought to* to express an advice. They are used to give a suggestion, so the obligation is on a mild level. For example:

*Alistair is sleepy. He shouldn't drive the car.*

Also, *should* and *ought to* can be used interchangeably to express advisability. For instance:

*Ben doesn't feel well. He ought to visit the doctor.*

- *Must* and *have to* express stronger levels of obligation, compared to *should* and *ought to*. English speakers use *must* and *have to* to express responsibility or necessity. Note that *must* can usually be replaced by *have to*. However, generally *must* expresses a personal opinion, while we use *have to* when somebody else has made the decision. So, *have to* could be considered slightly stronger:

*I must finish this work before I leave.*

*You have to show your passport when entering the UK from another country.*

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