

“Mustn’t” vs “don’t have to”

Due to the Coronavirus we have many restrictions placed on us. Many health experts are giving us advice and telling us what to avoid.

In English it might sometimes be tricky for German speakers to tell the difference between **mustn’t** (*nicht dürfen*) and **don’t have to** (*nicht brauchen / nicht unbedingt müssen*).

Let’s see if you can do it correctly:



Fill in “**don’t have to**” or “**mustn’t**”

1. To stop the spread of the virus you _____ touch your nose, eyes, and mouth.
2. If you cough, you _____ get a Corona test straight away.
3. The number of Corona cases is small at the moment, but it _____ stay that way.
4. You _____ meet in groups bigger than three.
5. We will reimburse you for the holiday, you _____ call us, everything will be done automatically.
6. You _____ come to work if you are feeling ill.
7. You _____ travel for private reasons.
8. One _____ be over 50 to catch the virus.
9. In the hospital you _____ go into the Corona ward without a face-mask.
10. The Coronavirus crisis _____ mean permanent economic damage.

Answers:

1. To stop the spread of the virus you **mustn’t** touch your nose, eyes, and mouth.
2. If you cough, you **don’t have to** get a Corona test straight away.
3. The number of Corona cases is small at the moment, but it **doesn’t have to** stay that way.
4. You **mustn’t** meet in groups bigger than three.
5. We will reimburse you for the holiday, you **don’t have to** call us, everything will be done automatically.
6. You **mustn’t** come to work if you are feeling ill.
7. You **mustn’t** travel for private reasons.
8. One **doesn’t have to** be over 50 to catch the virus.
9. In the hospital you **mustn’t** go into the Corona ward without a face-mask.
10. The Coronavirus crisis **doesn’t have to** mean permanent economic damage.