

## Activity Type

Speaking Game:  
matching, forming  
sentences (pair work)

## Focus

Modal verbs of necessity

## Aim

To practice making  
sentences with the modal  
verbs of necessity: *must*,  
*mustn't*, *need to* and  
*needn't*.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the  
modal verb cards and  
action cards for each  
pair of students and cut  
as indicated, keeping the  
two sets separate.

## Level

Intermediate (B1)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

In this modals of necessity speaking activity, students play a game where they make sentences with the modal verbs of necessity: *must*, *mustn't*, *need to* and *needn't*.

## Procedure

Divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair a set of modal verb cards and a set of action cards.

Tell the students to shuffle the two sets of cards separately and spread them out face down on the desk in two sets.

Students take it in turns to turn over a modal verb of necessity card and an action card.

If the two cards can be combined to make a meaningful sentence, e.g. 'mustn't' and 'drive fast', the student reads out the sentence and adds a justification, e.g. 'You mustn't drive fast because you might have an accident'.

If the student does this successfully, they keep the cards and have another turn.

If the cards don't match or the student can't justify the sentence, the cards are turned back over.

The other student then turns over two cards and tries to make a sentence and so on.

The game continues until all the cards have been matched.

The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, review the students' sentences together as a class.

**Modal verb cards**

must

must

must

must

mustn't

mustn't

mustn't

mustn't

must

must

must

must

mustn't

mustn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

needn't

need to

need to

need to

need to

needn't

needn't

need to

need to

**Action cards**



lose your keys	go to the bank	eat too much	be late for class
wash your hair	do homework	get up early	go to the doctor
drive fast	use your phone	study hard	hurry
do the shopping	exercise every day	clean the house	sleep in class
stop smoking	go to the dentist	have a shower	be nice to people
pay your bills	eat healthily	go on a diet	get a haircut
get angry	talk loudly	be careful	go to bed early