

Worksheet GB No. 48

Grammar Bite 48: "have to and have got to" ☆☆☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

Activity

Choose the right form according to tense (and person):

had to will have to have (got) to has (got) to

1 It is like waiting for something important to happen which _____ happen before life can go on.

2 Seat-holders were let in through side doors while hoi polloi _____ come in through the front

3 The investors _____ choose how much of their £2,400 to spend.

4 "When I was your age I _____ go to bed at 8.30."

5 At present users can get free access, but next year they _____ pay for the privilege.

had to will have to have (got) to has (got) to

6 "This is too much; something _____ give"

7 Anyone who at some future date wants to explain this _____ look up the relevant item.

8 'The House of Lords _____ be reformed,' she says.

9 In 1935 they _____ leave altogether

10 We _____ do a great deal more about restrictions on motor vehicles and give the cities back to the people.

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11 I think we _____ reconsider what we are doing.

12 They arrived early for the concert, and _____ wait outside.

13 Your bill will be reduced by £27, so you _____ pay £167 in 2012-13.

14 "Sam, seriously, this _____ work, you know."

15 She _____ ring three times before she could get through to the right person.

Notes

Have to, had to and have got to

Have to and have got to

The difference between these two verb phrases is about how FORMAL or INFORMAL different speakers think they are.

Speakers of the **British** variety usually see *have got to* as NEUTRAL, whereas **American** speakers often see *have got to* as at best VERY INFORMAL, and at worst INAPPROPRIATE.

This attitude is reflected in phrases like:

Buddy, got a dime?

When you gotta go, you gotta go!

Have got to is present tense only.

Had to, will have to...

Other tenses and MODALS use forms of *have to*:

She had to leave at six.

You'll have to wait, I'm afraid.

If he asked you, you would have to go.

Had got to

As obligation, this phrase is very unusual; I found only two examples in the [British National Corpus](#).

It is common as "had arrived at":

He had got to the right place

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