

Activity Type

Reading and writing activity, pair work

Focus

Modal verbs of obligation

Aim

To complete sentences expressing obligation for 'How to...' topics and then to use the sentences in a guessing game.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this modals of obligation activity, students complete sentences expressing obligation for 'How to...' topics and then use the sentences in a guessing game.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by writing the following on the board:

How to pass an exam.

You have to...

You must...

You should...

You don't have to...

You mustn't...

You shouldn't...

Elicit ways to complete each sentence, expressing obligation for the given topic. Write the students' ideas on the board.

Afterwards, erase the title 'How to pass an exam'.

Ask the students if they would be able to guess what the sentences are about if they didn't know the title. If the students answer 'yes', ask them to change some sentences to make them harder to guess.

Explain that the students are going to write similar sentences in their pairs.

Divide the students into pairs and give each pair six 'How to...' cards.

Tell the students to think of six 'How to...' topics and complete six sentences, expressing obligation for each topic. Remind the students to make their sentences hard to guess.

You may wish to brainstorm 'How to...' topics on the board to help the students with ideas, e.g. 'How to make a cup of tea'. 'How to be a good student'. 'How to take a photograph', etc.

When the students have finished writing, the pairs take it in turns to read out their sentences to another pair.

The other pair has to guess the 'How to...' topic from the expressions of obligation.

For each correct guess, pairs score one point.

The pair with the most points wins the game.

Afterwards, each pair reads one set of sentences to the class and they try to guess the 'How to...' topic.

How to

You have to

You must

You should

You don't have to

You mustn't

You shouldn't

How to

You have to

You must

You should

You don't have to

You mustn't

You shouldn't



How to

You have to

You must

You should

You don't have to

You mustn't

You shouldn't

How to

You have to

You must

You should

You don't have to

You mustn't

You shouldn't

How to

You have to

You must

You should

You don't have to

You mustn't

You shouldn't

How to

You have to

You must

You should

You don't have to

You mustn't

You shouldn't