

Patina · Emergencies

How Strong Is It?

can · should · need to · have to

English has four ways to tell somebody what to do, and they are not equally strong. **Can** is an option. **Have to** is an order. Reading the bars down the left side is the whole lesson.

★ the four strengths · ★★ which verbs change for he and she · ★★★ choose the right one

★ How strong is it?

Four ways to say what to do. Each one is stronger than the one before it. Tap any line to hear it.

**can** / can't**It is possible.**

You can take medicine for a headache.

You can't drive with a broken leg.

**should** / shouldn't**It is a good idea.**

You should rest today.

You shouldn't go to work today.

**need to** / don't need to**It is necessary.**

You need to see a doctor.

She doesn't need to go to the hospital.

**have to** / don't have to**There is no choice.**

You have to call 911.

He doesn't have to stay in bed.

★★ Does the verb change?

Two of these verbs never change. Two of them change for he, she, and it.

NEVER CHANGES

can · should

I can you can he can she can we can they can

I should he should she should they should

CHANGES FOR HE / SHE / IT

need to · have to

I need to you need to he needs to she needs to

I have to you have to he has to she has to

After can and should, never use to. Say "He should rest", not "He should to rest".

1

He _____ to see a doctor.

need

needs

2

She _____ to call 911.

have

has

3

My son _____ stay home.

should

shoulds

4

The doctor _____ help you.

can

cans

★★★ Which verb says it?

Read the meaning. Choose the verb that says it.

1

It is possible.

can

should

need to

have to

can't

shouldn't

2

It is a good idea.

can

should

need to

have to

can't

shouldn't

3

It is necessary.

can

should

need to

have to

can't

shouldn't

4

There is no choice.

can

should

need to

have to

can't

shouldn't

5

It is not possible.

can

should

need to

have to

can't

shouldn't

6

It is a bad idea.

can

should

need to

have to

can't

shouldn't

Careful: don't have to means it is not necessary. It does NOT mean it is forbidden. For forbidden, say can't.