

personal english



Grammar Tidbit #1

MUST vs HAVE TO

MUST

- «I must polish my boots every morning»

The speaker is a TIDY PERSON who imposes this rule upon himself

MUST is a self-imposition or a duty of conscience, that is, an **internal obligation** that depends entirely on the speaker's will

- «You must do your homework»
= ORDER (subjective)

I am obliging you to do so because I have made this decision for you

HAVE TO

- «I have to polish my boots every morning»

The speaker is a SOLDIER who is obliged to do so by the army

HAVE TO is a necessity imposed by the outer world, that is, an **external necessity** that does not in the least depend on the speaker's will

- «You have to do your homework»

= OBSERVATION (objective)
I am calling your attention to the fact that, if you don't, then you'll fail the year