

Movies & Languages 2018-2019

Darkest Hour

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	J. Wright
YEAR/COUNTRY	2017 / GB
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	G. Oldman, K. Scott Thomas, L. James, S. Dillane, R. Pickup



PLOT

During World War II, as Adolph Hitler's awesomely powerful Wehrmacht rampages across Europe, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Neville Chamberlain is forced to resign, recommending Winston Churchill as his successor. But even in his early days as the country's leader, Churchill is under pressure to commence peace negotiations with the Germans or to fight head-on the seemingly invincible Nazi regime, whatever the cost, however difficult and dangerous his decision may be. This film is about his leadership in those darkest hours.

At the 90th Academy Awards the film earned six nominations, including best picture. Gary Oldman won for Best Actor in what many critics cited as one of the best performances of his career.

LANGUAGE

Standard British English.

GRAMMAR

Modal Verbs: Obligation

MUST and HAVE TO

In the present **must** is used when the obligation comes from the speaker. **Have (got) to** is more common when the obligation comes from someone else, often a law or rule.

For example:

I must stop smoking (I want to)

I've got to stop smoking (doctor's orders)

In Italy, motorcyclists have to wear a crash helmet (This is the law)

In the future and the past **have to (had to, will have to)** is the only way of expressing obligation.

For example:

There was a bus strike last week so Walt had to walk to work

If they move to the country, they'll have to buy a car

MUSTN'T and NEEDN'T / DON'T HAVE TO

Mustn't expresses a negative obligation (the action is forbidden).

Needn't and **don't have to** indicate that there is no obligation.

For example:

You mustn't drink / smoke in the classroom (forbidden)

You don't have to have a licence to ride a bike (no legal obligation)

You needn't wash up. I'll do it later (no obligation)

SHOULD and OUGHT TO

Should and **ought to** are interchangeable and are used when the obligation is not so strong. Often they express advice or duty.

For example:

You should write to your family more often

I ought to stay home and study tonight

NEED

In the present tense **need to** expresses a weaker obligation than **have to** or **must**. It is used mainly in questions and negative sentences.

For example:

Need I really study modals again?

You needn't finish painting the house if you're tired

In hot weather you need to water the flowers every day

VOCABULARY

Merely little flays: nothing to be concerned about	To strive: to struggle to reach a goal
To mumble: to speak or say something unclearly	Scrap it: eliminate it
Give way: to agree to something that someone else wants	Nincompoop: foolish person
To toast: wish happiness or success to something or someone with wine	To get cold feet: to be too fearful to undertake an action
State of nature: nude, naked	Bugging it up: ruining or spoiling something
Capitulated: surrendered	The time is ripe: this is the right time
Insufferable: extremely annoying, unbearable	Wrath: extreme anger
Can't swing it: it can't be accomplished	Slippery: difficult to accomplish
Rap on the knuckles: speaking to somebody angrily or severely because of something they have done	Hop it!: go away
On the brink: a point at which something is about to happen	Hear, hear: yes, yes