



# Mandatory

Most common / least formal

# Compulsory

Less common

# Obligatory

Least common/ most formal

**Ordered by a law or rule.**

**mandatory for:**

A new accounting system will soon become mandatory for all departments.

**It is mandatory to do sth**

It's mandatory to wear a seat belt in the UK.

**It is mandatory for sb to do something**

It is mandatory for blood banks to test all donated blood for the virus.

**That must be done because of a law or a rule.**

**compulsory for:**

Education is compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 16.

**It is compulsory to do something**

In China it is compulsory to register a new born baby with the local police.

**It is compulsory for sb to do sth**

It is compulsory for all motorcyclists to wear helmets.

1. **That you must do because of the law, rules, etc.**

The college authorities have now made these classes obligatory.

**obligatory for: \_**

These classes are obligatory for all first-year students.

**obligatory to do something**

It is obligatory to report all cases of the disease to the authorities.

**It is obligatory for somebody to do something**

It is obligatory for all employees to wear protective clothing.

2. **used for describing sth that happens or is done so often that people expect it**

This action movie includes the obligatory chase scene.

The difference between these words is in how commonly they are used, and in what contexts.

**Mandatory is the most common and the least formal.**

Compulsory is less common. It is most often found in the phrases compulsory military service and compulsory education.

**Obligatory is the least common and the most formal.**

It is rarely used in spoken language.