

FALLOIR - IL FAUT - PRESENT TENSE LESSON GUIDE

The verb **FALLOIR** is an **IMPERSONAL** verb. You can only use it in the **IL** form. In this lesson we will focus on the present tense, but you can use this verb in many other tenses.

Examples from the lesson

- Il faut un passeport pour voyager à l'étranger.*
IL FAUT + NOUN
You need a passport to travel abroad.
- Il faut manger pour vivre et non vivre pour manger.*
IL FAUT + INFINITIVE
You must eat to live and not live to eat.
- Il faut commencer maintenant.*
IL FAUT + INFINITIVE
We need to start now.

Falloir = Avoir besoin de

You can still use the verbs **DEVOIR** and **AVOIR BESOIN DE** to mean **MUST** or **NEED**, but you'll sound much more French if you use **FALLOIR**!
When you use the verb **FALLOIR** with the indirect object pronouns **ME – TE – LUI – NOUS – VOUS – LEUR** you can totally avoid the subjunctive by following them up with an **INFINITIVE**.. Just remember when translating your sentences to English, **IL** will not be the first word you translate. It will be the pronoun. English and French are just different that way. Look at the following examples.

Il **me** faut... →
I need...

- Il **me** faut un nouvel appartement.
I need a new apartment.

Il **te** faut... →
You need...

- Il **te** faut des oeufs?
Do **you** need eggs?

Il **lui** faut... →
He/She needs...

- Il **lui** faut son maillot de bain.
He / She needs his / her swimsuit.

Il **nous** faut... →
We need...

- Il **lui** faut ses baskets.
He / She needs his / her sports shoes.

Il **vous** faut... →
You need...

- Il **nous** faut une grande voiture.
We need a big car.

Il **leur** faut... →
They need...

- Il **vous** faut trois euros.
You need three euros.

- Il **leur** faut du travail.
They need work.

Lesson Highlights

FALLOIR CAN HAVE SEVERAL MEANINGS

to have to
to need
must
should

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FALLOIR CAN BE USED IN ANY TENSE

Just a few examples without getting into the subjunctive

Il me faut present tense	I have to I need to I must I should
Il m'a fallu passé composé (very specific and not descriptive)	I had to I needed to
Il me fallait imperfect tense (descriptive past)	I had to I needed to
Il me faudra futur simple	I will have to I will need to
Il me faudrait present conditional	I would have to I would need to

Your French teacher in the South of France

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When **FALLOIR** means **TO HAVE TO** be sure not to confuse it with the verb **AVOIR** which means **TO HAVE**.

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You can only conjugate the verb **FALLOIR** in the **IL** singular form (3rd person singular).

