I GOTTA

Read the sentences below. They have basically the same meaning.

1. I need to go now.
2. I have to go now.
3. I've got to go now.

In spoken English, *I've got to* (Sentence 3) is often pronounced “I've gotta” or “I gotta.”

With a partner, practice using *I gotta* in the conversations below. Take turns being Person 1 and Person 2. There are many possible ways to complete the sentences. (Remember: Gotta is used in spoken English, but not in writing.)

1. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah.¹ I gotta go to the grocery store. I gotta buy ____________________.

2. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah. I gotta go to the drugstore. I gotta buy ____________________.

3. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah. I gotta go to the mall. I gotta buy ____________________.

4. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah. I gotta go to the post office. I gotta ____________________.

5. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah. I gotta go to the bank. I gotta ____________________.

6. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah. I gotta go home. I gotta ____________________.

7. Person 1: Are you leaving now?
   Person 2: Yeah. I gotta go to ____________________. I gotta ____________________.

   a place in your city

¹ *Yeah =* Yes. *Yeah* is used in informal spoken English.