

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

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