Need is used both as a principal verb and as an auxiliary verb.

**Need as a principal verb**

When used as a principal verb need means ‘require’. The principal verb need is followed by an **infinitive with to**. It has the forms **needs** and **needed**.

We **need to help** her.
I **need** more time to **finish** the job.
We have got what we **needed**.
We **need** to find a way out.
You **need** to talk to him.

**As an auxiliary verb**

As an auxiliary verb, need remains unchanged whatever be the person or number of the subject. The auxiliary need is common in questions and negative sentences.

You **need not** ask my permission.
She **need not** wait any longer. (NOT She needs not wait any longer.)
They **need not** make an issue.
You **need not talk** to them.
**Need** I discuss this matter with her?
**Need** we wait any longer?

The negative adverb **hardly** is often used with need.

I **need hardly** say that I am very interested in this offer.
We **need hardly** say that we are eagerly looking forward to meeting you.

**Need** is also used with **only**.

You **need only** say what you want.
She **need only** talk with him and the issue will be solved.

**Need** can be used in questions.

**Need** I wait any longer?
**Need** we write to her?

If the answer is in the negative, say ‘No, you need not’. If the answer is in the positive, say ‘Yes, you must’.
**Uses of Need**

**Need**
I come again? No, you **need not**.
Need I come again? Yes, you **must**. (NOT Yes, you need)

**Need + Have + Past participle**

When referring to the past time, **need** is followed by the perfect infinitive (have + past participle). This structure is used to talk about unnecessary things that happened.

She **need not have lost** her temper. (He lost her temper but that was unnecessary.)
You **need not have refused** that offer. (You refused that offer but you shouldn’t have done that.)