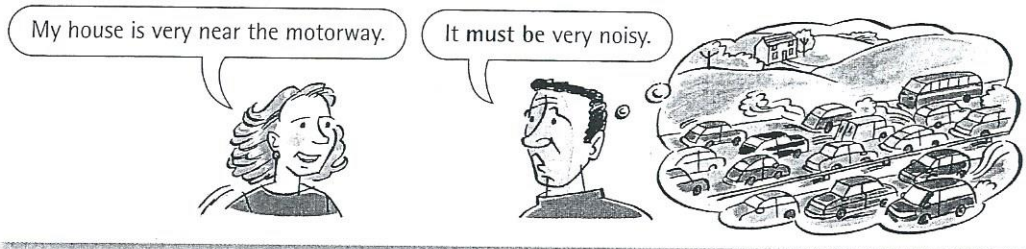


Must and can't

A

Study this example:



You can use **must** to say that you believe something is certain:

- You've been travelling all day. You **must** be tired. (Travelling is tiring and you've been travelling all day, so you **must** be tired.)
- 'Jim is a hard worker.' 'Jim? You **must** be joking. He doesn't do anything.'
- Carol **must** get very bored in her job. She does the same thing every day.
- I'm sure Sally gave me her phone number. I **must** have it somewhere.

You can use **can't** to say that you believe something is not possible:

- You've just had lunch. You **can't** be hungry already. (People are not normally hungry just after eating a meal. You've just eaten, so you **can't** be hungry.)
- They haven't lived here for very long. They **can't** know many people.

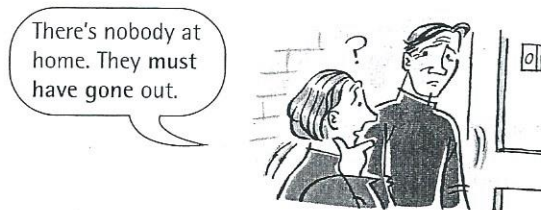
Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	must can't	be (tired / hungry / at work etc.) be (doing / going / joking etc.) do / get / know / have etc.
-----------------	-----------------------------	---

B

For the past we use **must have (done)** and **can't have (done)**.

Study this example:



Martin and Lucy are standing at the door of their friends' house. They have rung the doorbell twice, but nobody has answered. Lucy says: They **must** have gone out.

- I didn't hear the phone. I **must** have been asleep.
- 'I've lost one of my gloves.' 'You **must** have dropped it somewhere.'
- Sue hasn't contacted me. She **can't** have got my message.
- Tom walked into a wall. He **can't** have been looking where he was going.

Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	must can't	have	been (asleep / at work etc.) been (doing / looking etc.) gone / got / known etc.
-----------------	-----------------------------	-------------	--

You can use **couldn't have** instead of **can't have**:

- Sue **couldn't** have got my message.
- Tom **couldn't** have been looking where he was going.

Can't ('I can't swim' etc.) → Unit 26 Must ('I must go' etc.) → Units 31-32
Modal verbs (can/could/will/would etc.) → Appendix 4 American English → Appendix 7

28.1 Put in **must** or **can't**.

- 1 You've been travelling all day. You must be tired.
- 2 That restaurant be very good. It's always full of people.
- 3 That restaurant be very good. It's always empty.
- 4 I'm sure I gave you the key. You have it. Have you looked in your bag?
- 5 You're going on holiday next week. You be looking forward to it.
- 6 It rained every day during their holiday, so they have had a very nice time.
- 7 Congratulations on passing your exam. You be very pleased.
- 8 You got here very quickly. You have walked very fast.
- 9 Bill and Sue always travel business class, so they be short of money.

28.2 Complete each sentence with a verb (one or two words) in the correct form.

- 1 I've lost one of my gloves. I must have dropped it somewhere.
- 2 They haven't lived here for very long. They can't know many people.
- 3 Ted isn't at work today. He must ill.
- 4 Ted wasn't at work last week. He must ill.
- 5 (*the doorbell rings*) I wonder who that is. It can't Mary. She's still at work at this time.
- 6 Sarah knows a lot about films. She must to the cinema a lot.
- 7 Look. James is putting on his hat and coat. He must out.
- 8 I left my bike outside the house last night and now it has gone. Somebody must it.
- 9 Amy was in a very difficult situation when she lost her job. It can't easy for her.
- 10 There is a man walking behind us. He has been walking behind us for the last twenty minutes. He must us.

28.3 Read the situations and use the words in brackets to write sentences with **must have** and **can't have**.

- 1 The phone rang, but I didn't hear it. (I / asleep)
I must have been asleep.
- 2 Sue hasn't contacted me. (she / get / my message)
She can't have got my message.
- 3 The jacket you bought is very good quality. (it / very expensive)
.....
- 4 I haven't seen the people next door for ages. (they / go away)
.....
- 5 I can't find my umbrella. (I / leave / it in the restaurant last night)
.....
- 6 Dave, who is usually very friendly, walked past me without speaking. (he / see / me)
.....
- 7 There was a man standing outside the café. (he / wait / for somebody)
.....
- 8 Liz did the opposite of what I asked her to do. (she / understand / what I said)
.....
- 9 When I got back to my car, the door was unlocked. (I / forget / to lock it)
.....
- 10 I was woken up in the night by the noise next door. (the neighbours / have / a party)
.....
- 11 The light was red, but the car didn't stop. (the driver / see / the red light)
.....