

Beginner

The Use of Must and Can't

RULES AND EXAMPLES

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

Examples:

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

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

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

Examples:

1. I didn't hear the phone. I **must have been** asleep.
2. 'I've lost one of my gloves.' 'You **must have dropped** it somewhere.
3. Sue hasn't contacted me. She **can't have got** my message.
4. Tom walked into a wall. He **can't have been** looking where he was going.
5. There's nobody at home. They **must have gone** out.

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The Use of Must and Can't

Study the structure:

I /you/he (etc.)	must have can't	been (asleep / at work etc.) been (doing / looking etc.) gone / got / known etc.
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You can use **couldn't have** instead of **can't have**:

Examples:

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

EXERCISES

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- your bag?
4. You're going on holiday next week. You _____ be looking forward to it.
 5. It rained every day during their holiday, so they _____ have had a very nice time.
 6. Congratulations on passing your exam. You _____ be very pleased.
 7. You got here very quickly. You _____ have walked very fast.
 8. Bill and Sue always travel business class, so they _____ be short of money.