MUST & MUSTN'T

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Must and Mustn't can be confusing sometimes for beginners. While it seems tricky, it is in fact not that complicated to understand. 'Must' is a modal verb, which means it does not show an action like most verbs. Instead, we use it to show two things, **necessity** or **possibility**.

When expressing necessity, **must** is used to talk about something that has to be done.

Example:

I must do my homework.

I must find a job.

In these sentences we can see the importance by the speaker of doing his/her homework or finding a job.

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In expressing possibility, must or mustn't is followed by the perfect tense. The use of must here is to show, to a great extent, that we are sure about the reason behind something.

Example:

John was absent for a long time. He must have been sick.

In this example, the speaker mentions that John had been absent for work. The reason of his absence is, to a great extent, due to John's sickness.

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