

MUST & MUSTN'T



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.

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.

