

MUST, MIGHT & CAN'T: DEDUCTION

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Use present evidence to make strong or uncertain conclusions.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: Is that Ben over there?

B: It **can't be**. He's abroad this week. It **might be** his brother.

A: You're right. They **must look** very similar - I was sure it was him.

2. READ THE CLUES

1. Someone is yawning after a night shift. How **must they feel**?
2. A friend has a suitcase at the station. Where **might they be going**?
3. A shop is dark and the shutters are down. What **must be** true?
4. You know Jo is in another city. Why **can't** the person outside **be** Jo?
5. Someone is wearing a team shirt. What **might** their plans **be**?
6. There are wet umbrellas by the door. What **must** the weather **be** like?

Keep talking: What makes you think that? / Are you sure? / What else could explain it?

3. STRONG OR UNCERTAIN?

Give a conclusion and the evidence. Say when the evidence only supports a possibility.

7. What clues **might show** that someone is preparing for a celebration?
8. You're adding 5 and 4. Why **can't** an answer of 500 **be** right?
9. A friend says they can't keep their eyes open. How **must they feel**?
10. A room is silent. **Must it be** empty, or **might** someone **be** inside?

4. BUILD A CLUE TRAIL

Invent a scene and give your partner three clues, one at a time.

After each clue, your partner makes a deduction and explains how certain they are.

Example: There's a cake and a pile of presents. It **must be** someone's birthday.

Reveal the scene, then swap roles. Discuss whether other explanations are possible.

Answer help: It must be ... because ... / It might be ... / It can't be ... because ...

Remember: Must = strong positive deduction; can't = strong negative; might = uncertain.