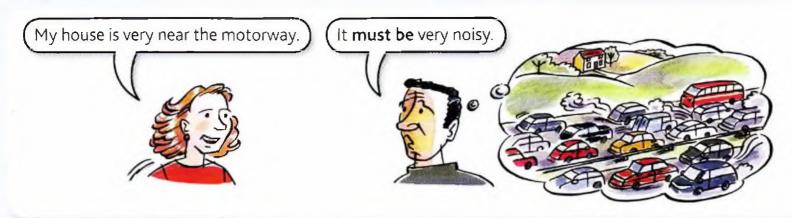
## Must and can't

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.)
- 'Joe is a hard worker.' 'Joe? You must be joking. He doesn't do anything.'
- Louise must get very bored in her job. She does the same thing every day.
- I'm sure Sally gave me her address. 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.

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

There's nobody at home. They must have gone out.



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.

- We used to live very near the motorway.' 'Did you? It **must have been** noisy.'
- 'I've lost one of my gloves.' 'You must have dropped it somewhere.'
- Sarah 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

been (asleep / at work etc.)
been (doing / looking etc.)
gone / got / known etc.

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

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