

Using must

Using must

Must is used to express several different ideas.

To express compulsion

You must do your homework before going to bed.

You must finish this work before Monday.

You must attend the conference.

To express duty

We must serve our country.

We must love our brethren.

To express obligation

We must respect our elders.

We must obey our parents and teachers.

To express necessity

We must get the roof repaired before monsoon sets in.

You must get a good job.

To give advice

You must change your clothes before leaving for office.

You must stop smoking.

You must exercise regularly.

You must avoid fatty foods.

To express some possibility or expectation

She must be back in a short while.

That must be interesting.

He must be working.

Using must

To express a logical conclusion

She must be nearly 40.

He must be joking.

She must be a miserable house wife.

Must refers to the present or future. In the past tense, we use had to to express similar ideas.

I had to do the paint job again.

I had to wait for them for two hours.

Instead of must, we can use will have to to talk about future obligation.

You will have to reach the station by 6.30. (OR You must reach the station by 6.30.)

The structure must have + past participle can refer to the past.

She must have reached home by now.

It must have been past mid-night when Dad returned home.

Must not

Must not is used to prohibit.

You must not tease the dog.

You must not smoke.

You must not be late for office.

You must not waste your money.