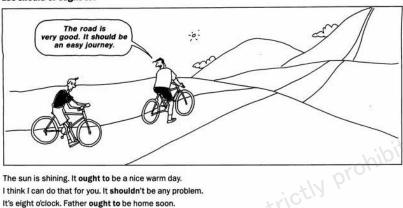


Should/ought/must/can't (probability)

${1\over 4}$ When you want to say that something is probably true or that it will probably happen you can use should or ought to:



The sun is shining. It ought to be a nice warm day.

I think I can do that for you. It shouldn't be any problem.

It's eight o'clock. Father ought to be home soon.

WARNING: You only use these forms for things you want to happen. You don't say:

We've missed our bus. We ought to be late.

When you are fairly sure that something is true you can use must:

There's someone at the door. It must be the postman. Hello. Nice to meet you. You must be Sylvia's husband.

3 If you are sure that something is not the case you use cannot or can't:

He can't be very old. He's not more than forty is he?





WARNING: You do not use must not or mustn't with this meaning. You can't say:

That mustn't be true. You mustn't be tired already.

'But we've just started. You mustn't be tired already.' 🗶

You've just had lunch. You can't be hungry again.'



$oldsymbol{\mathbb{A}}$ Use should be or ought to be with one of these phrases to complete these dialogues:

nice and quiet very comfortable a good game an exciting trip a nice day really funny

- 1 A We're thinking of going to New York this summer.
 - B Wow! That ought to be an exciting trip.
- 2 A Mum has just bought some nice new armchairs.
 - B That's nice. They ___
- 3 A I think the weather's going to be fine tomorrow.
- 4 A I'm looking forward to the football match this weekend.
 - B So am I. It _
- 5 A We are going to have a holiday in the mountains.
 - B That sounds great. It _
- ire strictly prohibited 6 A There's a good film with Robin Williams. He always makes me laugh.
 - B Yes It

B Complete these sentences using must be or can't be:

- 1 It's still early. Surely you _can't be_ tired already.
- 2 The dog is barking. There ______ someone at the door.
- 3 I hear your daughter's got a really good job. You __ ____ very proud of her.
- 4 It's not very expensive. It _____ more than twenty dollars.





- 7 She's very short. She ______ taller than five feet.
- 8 It's getting dark. It ______ getting late.
- 9 But you look so young. You _____ Rebecca's father!
- 10 I'm sorry to hear your wife's in hospital. You ______ very worried.
- 11 Bob has been off work for six weeks. He ______ very ill.
- 12 I've eaten most of them. There _____ many left.
- 13 It's really freezing cold. It ______ the worst winter we've ever had.