

Must and have (got) to

A

We use **must** and **must not** in formal rules and regulations and in warnings:

Reminder → C20–C24

- Bookings **must** be made at least seven days before departure.
- The government **must not** be allowed to appoint judges.

In spoken English we often use **must** and **mustn't** (= must not) to propose a future arrangement, such as a meeting or social event, without making detailed plans:

- We **must** get together more often.
- We **mustn't** leave it so long next time.

We can also use **I must ...** to remind ourselves to do something:

- I **must** charge my phone. I meant to do it yesterday, but I forgot.

B

To draw a conclusion about –

☆ something that happened in the past we use **must + have + past participle**:

- That's not Clara's car. She **must have borrowed** it from her parents.

☆ something happening at or around the time of speaking we use **must be + -ing**:

- I can't hear a noise. You **must be imagining** things.

☆ something that is likely to happen in the future we use **must be going to** or **must be + -ing**:

- 'What are all those workmen doing?' 'I think they **must be going to** dig up the road.'
- I was wrong about the meeting being today. It **must be happening** next Friday.

☆ a present situation we use **must be**, or **have (got) to be** in informal speech:

- Their goalkeeper **has got to be** at least two metres tall! (or ... **must be** ...)

We can use **must have to** to say that we conclude something based on what we know about a present situation and **must have had to** to conclude something about a past situation:

- I can't access the database. You **must have to put in** a password. (= a password is necessary)
- Matt wasn't at home when I went round. He **must have had to go** out unexpectedly.

Note that we can't say 'must've (got) to' but we can say **must've had to**.

C

In questions that hope for or expect a negative answer we prefer **have (got) to**, although in formal contexts **must** is sometimes used:

- Do we have to** answer all the questions? (or **Have we got to ...?**; formally **Must we ...?**)

We use **have to** in questions that imply a criticism. **Must** can also be used, although some people think this is rather old-fashioned. We usually stress **have** and **must** in sentences like this:

- Do you have to** play your trumpet here? It's deafening! (formally **Must** you play ...?)

D

Sometimes we can use either **have to** or **have got to**. However –

☆ we use **have to** with frequency adverbs:

- I *often* **have to** work at the weekend to get everything done.

Also: **always, never, normally, rarely, sometimes**, etc.

☆ with the past simple we use **had to** especially in questions and negative sentences:

- When **did** you **have to** give it back? (*not* When had you got to give it back?)
- We **didn't have to** wait too long for an answer. (*not* We hadn't got to wait too long ...)

☆ if **have** is contracted (e.g. I've, He's, It'd) then we must include **got**:

- I need a new pair of shoes, and they've **got to** be blue. (*not* ... they've to be ...)

☆ we don't use **have got to** with other modal verbs:

- Motorists *will* **have to** wait until next year to use the bridge. (*not* Motorists will have got to wait ...)

Note also that **have got to** is often preferred in informal speech.

Exercises

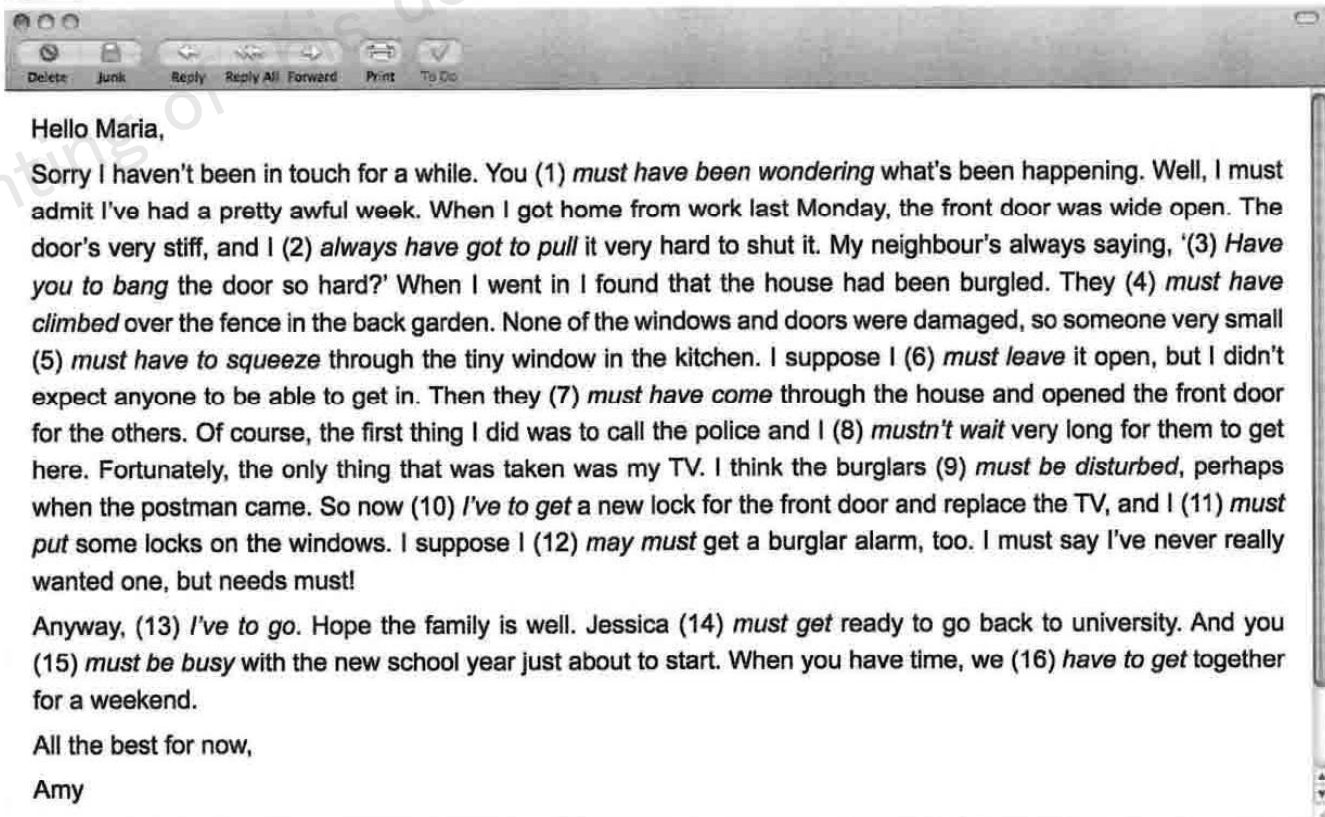
18.1 Complete the sentences with one of these forms: **must have + past participle; must + bare infinitive; must be + -ing; or must have (had) to**. Use the verbs given. **B**

- When I left my laptop on the train I thought I'd never see it again. But someone it and handed it in to the lost property office. (*find*)
- Luisa owns a big car and a yacht. She incredibly rich. (*be*)
- A: Everyone's going into the hall. B: The meeting soon. Let's go. (*start*)
- Without things like washing machines and dishwashers our grandparents much harder in the kitchen than we do today. (*work*)
- I didn't think Rob was coming to the meeting. He his mind. (*change*)
- A: I wonder how you get past security.
B: I suppose you some form of ID. (*show*)
- A: I thought Paul would be home.
B: He Lotta to work. He said he would. (*take*)
- Look at all those birds. There at least a thousand of them. (*be*)

18.2 Write new sentences with a similar meaning. Use **have / has got to** where possible or **preferable; if not, use have / has to**. **D**

- It is necessary to do all of this photocopying before lunchtime.
All of this photocopying has got to be done / has to be done before lunchtime.
- It is rarely necessary to ask Hannah to tidy her room. *Hannah ...*
- Is it necessary for us to hand in the homework tomorrow? *Have ...*
- It wasn't necessary for me to go to the hospital after all. *I ...*
- Was it necessary for Ben to go alone? *Did ...*
- It is sometimes necessary for Adam to start work at 6:30. *Adam ...*
- It is necessary to extend the college to accommodate the new students. *The college ...*
- It may be necessary to cancel our holiday because my mother is ill. *We ...*

18.3 If necessary, correct the italicised parts of this email message. **A-D**



Hello Maria,

Sorry I haven't been in touch for a while. You (1) *must have been wondering* what's been happening. Well, I must admit I've had a pretty awful week. When I got home from work last Monday, the front door was wide open. The door's very stiff, and I (2) *always have got to pull* it very hard to shut it. My neighbour's always saying, '(3) *Have you to bang* the door so hard?' When I went in I found that the house had been burgled. They (4) *must have climbed* over the fence in the back garden. None of the windows and doors were damaged, so someone very small (5) *must have to squeeze* through the tiny window in the kitchen. I suppose I (6) *must leave* it open, but I didn't expect anyone to be able to get in. Then they (7) *must have come* through the house and opened the front door for the others. Of course, the first thing I did was to call the police and I (8) *mustn't wait* very long for them to get here. Fortunately, the only thing that was taken was my TV. I think the burglars (9) *must be disturbed*, perhaps when the postman came. So now (10) *I've to get* a new lock for the front door and replace the TV, and I (11) *must put* some locks on the windows. I suppose I (12) *may must* get a burglar alarm, too. I must say I've never really wanted one, but needs must!

Anyway, (13) *I've to go*. Hope the family is well. Jessica (14) *must get* ready to go back to university. And you (15) *must be busy* with the new school year just about to start. When you have time, we (16) *have to get* together for a weekend.

All the best for now,

Amy

Can you find three other common expressions with **must**?