

## Unit 33: **MUST AND SHOULD**

**Must** and **should** are modal verbs. Unit 27 shows you how to make correct sentences with them. This unit shows you when to use them. They have the same kinds of meaning, but **must** is always stronger than **should**.

### 1 **Commands (must only)**

You **must not leave** the store until you pay.

Employees **must sign in** before beginning their shifts.

### 2 **Advice or necessity**

a **general** You **shouldn't** ever **argue** with a customer.

b **present and future time** Do you think we **should rearrange** the store display?  
Yes, we **should**; it's in need of a change.  
We really **must** order some new props for the display.

c **past time (should only)** You **shouldn't have been** rude. It was bad of you.  
They **should have told** him. Why didn't they?

NOTICE: We can also use **have to / need to / needn't** (Unit 34) and sometimes **would** (Unit 32) for advice and necessity. The meanings of all the verbs are a little different from each other (Unit 35).

### 3 **Probability**

a **general** We **must** take inventory today.  
It **has got to be** finished by tomorrow.  
**(must or have got to)**

b **now** This isn't my receipt. There **must be** some mistake.  
This isn't my receipt. There **has got to be** some mistake.  
(I am sure there is a mistake.)  
**I must be dreaming.** (I can't believe it.)  
**He should be** in his office. (He is probably there.)

c      **future time**

Don't worry. You **shouldn't have** any problems.

(I don't think you will have problems.)

d      **past time**  
**(must only)**

I can't see them anywhere. They **must have gone** home.

(I feel sure that they have gone home.)

BUT I saw them just now. They **can't have gone** home.

(I feel sure they have not gone home.)

For strong negative probability, use **can't** (Unit 28).

NOTICE: **Ought to** (Unit 36) means the same as **should**.