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 room until I say.

Parking permits **must be displayed** in car windows.

2   Advice or necessity

a	general	You **shouldn't** ever **cross** the road without looking.
b	present and future time	Do you think we **should take** our coats?
		Yes, you **must**; it might be very cold.
		I'm afraid we really **must go** now.
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	It **must be** terrible to be in an earthquake.
		It **has got to be** terrible to be in an earthquake.
	(**must** or **have got to**)	(I have not been in one but I feel sure.)
b	now	This isn't my bill. There **must be** some mistake.
		This isn't my bill. 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	I can't see them anywhere. They **must have gone** home.
	(**must** only)	(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**.