

Intermediate 2
Unit 4, Grammar: Part B
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Must have

Simple Form: Subject + must + have + Past Participle + ...
Progressive Form: Subject + must + have + been + Verb+ing + ...

Deductions about a Situation in the Past:

deduction = the process of reaching a decision or answer by thinking about the known facts, or the decision that is reached in this way

Examples:

Last night, I went to my uncle's house. Nobody answered the door.

*My uncle **must have gone out**.*

⇒ I am sure that my uncle was out at that time.

*My uncle **must have been sleeping**.*

⇒ I am sure that my uncle was sleeping at that time.

*My uncle **must have been taking a shower**.*

⇒ I am sure that my uncle was taking a shower at that time.

Sally got the top grade of the class on the history exam last week.

*She **must have studied** hard.*

⇒ I am sure that she had studied hard before the exam.

*She **must have been studying** hard.*

⇒ I am sure that she had been studying hard before the exam.

Point:

For negative deductions regarding a situation in the past, we use "couldn't have".

Examples:

Last night, I went to my uncle's house. Nobody answered the door.

*My uncle **couldn't have been** at home.*

⇒ I am sure that my uncle wasn't at home at that time.

Sally got the top grade of the class on the history exam last week.

*She **couldn't have cheated** on the exam.*

⇒ I am sure that she didn't cheat on the exam.

Source:

[Intermediate 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)