



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 28 – must and can

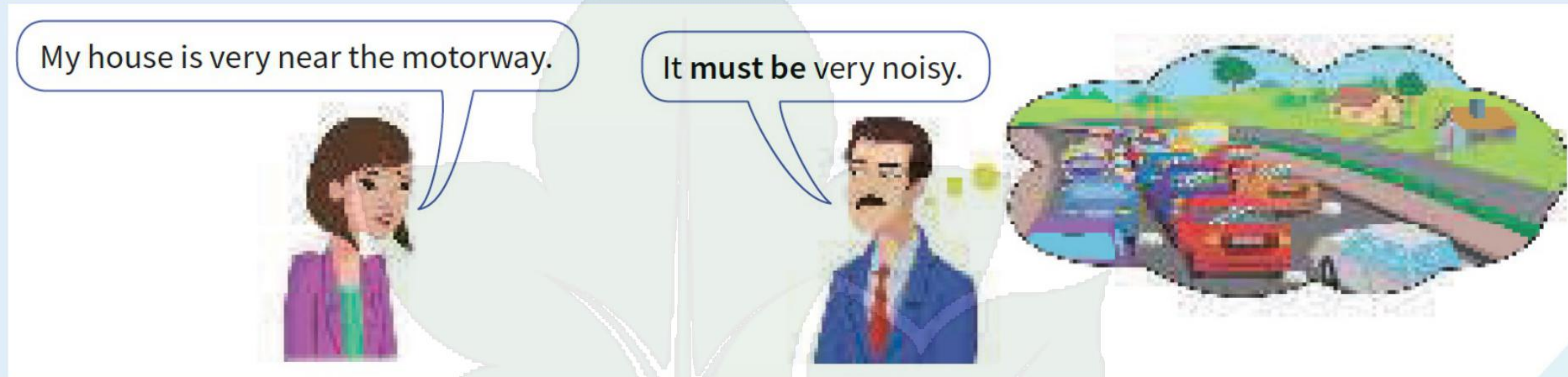
tienganh



Must and can't

PRESENT SITUATION

A



❖ We use **must** to say that we **believe something is certain**:

- EX1: You've been travelling all day. You **must be** tired. (*travelling is tiring and you've been travelling all day, so you **must be** tired*)
- EX2: 'Joe is a hard worker.' 'Joe? You **must be** joking. He doesn't do anything.'
- EX3: Louise **must get** very bored in her job. She does the same thing every day.

❖ We use **can't** to say that we **believe something is not possible**:

- EX 4: You've just had lunch. You **can't be** hungry already. (*we don't expect people to be hungry immediately after a meal*)
- EX 5: They haven't lived here for very long. They **can't know** many people.

you/she/they (etc.)

must
can't

be (tired / hungry / at work etc.)
be -ing (doing / going / joking etc.)
get / know / have etc.

Must and can't

PAST SITUATION

B

There's nobody at home. They **must have gone** out.



Martin and Lucy expected their friends to be at home.

They rang the doorbell twice, but nobody has answered. Lucy says:

They **must have gone** out.
(= there is no other possibility)

❖ For the past we use **must have ...** and **can't have ...** :

- EX6: I lost one of my gloves. I **must have dropped** it somewhere. (*that's the only explanation I can think of*)
- EX7: 'We used to live very near the motorway.' 'Did you? It **must have been** noisy.'

❖ For the past we use **must have ...** and **can't have ...** :

- EX8: Sarah hasn't contacted me. She **can't have** got my message.
- EX9: Max walked into a wall. He **can't have** been looking where he was going.
- ❖ You can use **couldn't have** instead of **can't have**:
 - EX10: Sarah **couldn't have** got my message.
 - EX11: Max **couldn't have been looking** where he was going.

you/she/they (etc.)	must can't	have	been (asleep / at work etc.) been -ing (doing / looking etc.) gone / got / known etc.
---------------------	---------------	------	---

Must and can't

BÀI TẬP NHANH

Select the option which best completes the sentences below:

I've lost one of my gloves. I _____ it somewhere.

A. can drop

B. must drop

C. must have dropped

D. can't have dropped

Must and can't

TÓM TẮT

1. Chúng ta dùng **must** để nói chúng ta tin một việc gì đó là chắc chắn (tạm dịch – chắc hẳn) - *You've been travelling all day. You **must be** tired* – *Bạn đã đi lại cả ngày. Bạn **chắc hẳn** rất mệt.*
2. Chúng ta dùng **can't** để nói chúng ta tin một việc gì đó là không thể - *You've just had lunch. You **can't be** hungry already* – *Bạn vừa ăn trưa xong. Bạn **không thể** đã đói rồi.*
3. **Must have + past participle** diễn tả một suy luận về sự chắc chắn của một việc gì đó đã xảy ra trong quá khứ - *I lost one of my gloves. I **must have dropped** it somewhere* – *Tôi đã làm mất găng tay. Tôi **chắc hẳn đã đánh rơi** nó ở đâu đó.*
4. **Can't have + past participle** diễn tả một suy luận về sự chắc chắn của một việc gì đó đã không xảy ra trong quá khứ - *Sarah hasn't contacted me. She **can't have** got my message* – *Sarah chưa liên lạc với tôi. Cô ấy **không thể đã nhận** được tin nhắn của tôi.*