

Bend it like Beckham

Word Work

Language in Use

Jules must've told him, so he'd known when he decided to come round here that it was going to be tough.

Jess is thinking this to herself. She has come to the conclusion that Joe (*him*) is there because her friend Jules told him about the situation: she deduces it: "Jules must've told him..." By saying 'must have' (must've) she is thinking it is certain.

Reading the story, we, the readers, can deduce that some things happened even though we weren't told about them. We can be certain about them.

I carried the tray of tea in from the kitchen with shaking hands

She must have made the tea in the kitchen.

Dad, Mum and Pinky were sitting staring at Joe, and not in a friendly way. But at least they hadn't kicked him out without hearing what he had to say.

Joe must have arrived quite recently.

Pinky could spot a romance a mile away.

Pinky must have had some experience of romance.

Now look at this section of the text, and make some sentences about what you think was certain. Use *'must have'*.

'I think we know best our daughter's potential,' Dad said quietly. 'Jess has no time for games. She'll be starting university soon.'

'But playing for the team is an honour,' I blurted out, unable to keep quiet any longer.

Mum glared at me. 'What bigger honour is there than respecting your elders?' she demanded.

Dad looked at Joe. 'Young man, when I was a teenager in Nairobi, I was the best fast bowler in my school', he said curtly. 'Our team even won the East African cup. But when I came to this country, nothing. I wasn't allowed to play in any team. These bloody *goreh* in their clubhouses laughed at my turban and sent me packing.'

I looked down at the floor. I knew about this because Mum had told me, but Dad had never talked about it before.

2. It is important to realise that ‘*must have*’ is not the natural past of ‘*must*’. You will know that we often use the verb ‘*to have*’ after a modal verb to make the past:

e.g. *He might cook dinner tonight.*
He might have been here earlier.

However, if you want to make the past of ‘*must*’ you need to use ‘*had to*’
e.g. *They must catch the train to Évora at eight. (It’s an obligation)*

They had to catch the train to Évora at eight. (It was an obligation)

If you said

They must have caught the train to Évora at eight
(It was certain that they did)

The negative of *must have* is *can’t have*.

Joe must have decided to come to the house to resolve the problem.

Joe can’t have known how difficult Jess’s parents would be.

Both *must have* and *can’t have* – if used with ‘surely’ – work as exclamations:

Surely Jess must have known they would disapprove!

Surely Joe can’t have ignored their hostility!

Look at the section of text and the sentences you have already made. How many new sentences can you make using ‘*must*’, ‘*must have*’, ‘*can’t have*’ or ‘*had to*’?

Optional Extra Box!

Note that ‘*have*’ added to ‘*would*’ or ‘*should*’ talks about unreal past events. Some people call this the conditional tense.

I would have chosen the blue chairs if I’d known how comfortable they were.

(The speaker didn’t choose the blue chairs)

She should have talked to her doctor instead of her sister-in-law.

(She spoke to her sister-in-law, not her doctor)

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Also, *would have* is often used to make assumptions.

It would have been typical of Mark to get into a temper over such a small problem.

The British would have set up an enquiry to deal with that situation.

The Portuguese would have cooked the chicken over coals.

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Word Work

Glossary

The following words appear in the extract from Narinder Dhani's book 'Bend it like Beckham' featured in this kit. The definitions are accurate for the context of this story, but may vary in different contexts.

barge in	<i>arrive announced</i>
cartwheeled	<i>use hands and feet alternatively to turn in circles</i>
deadlock	<i>reach a point where it seems no one can win</i>
dribbling	<i>run and keep the ball at your feet</i>
fab	<i>fabulous; fantastic</i>
fast bowler	<i>in the game of cricket, someone who delivers the ball quickly</i>
filthy look	<i>show immense displeasure in the way you look at someone</i>
flipping	<i>jumping; feeling excited and nervous at the same time</i>
glared	<i>looked angrily</i>
goalie	<i>goal keeper</i>
grin	<i>wide, happy smile showing teeth</i>
gutted	<i>feeling devastated; very upset</i>
lead	<i>feeling very heavy</i>
let's stuff 'em	<i>let's beat them properly</i>
mock-sexy pout	<i>pushing out lips, pretending to look sexy</i>
muttered	<i>spoke quietly; hardly heard</i>
niggling	<i>worrying; causing anxiety</i>
no pushover	<i>not easy</i>
on strike	<i>refuse to work</i>
pep talk	<i>talk designed to encourage a team to do well</i>
rattling	<i>making a clicking noise</i>
roar	<i>noise made by a large crowd of people</i>
scorched down the road	<i>drove a car very quickly</i>
second wind	<i>find some extra, hidden strength</i>
shrieking	<i>crying</i>
sternly	<i>seriously</i>
trudged	<i>walking as if feet were very heavy</i>
unfounded	<i>without cause or reason</i>
were all up for	<i>everyone was keen or interested to do it</i>
wheeze	<i>breathing noisily</i>
whipped out	<i>made appear suddenly</i>
whisked out of	<i>taken away quickly</i>
wobbling	<i>shaking; shaking and moving unsteadily</i>

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barge in	<i>chegar assim de repente</i>
cartwheeled	<i>deu uma cambalhota</i>
deadlock	<i>impasse</i>
dribbling	<i>a driblar</i>
fab	<i>fantástico</i>
fast bowler	<i>lançador (no jogo de cricket)</i>
filthy look	<i>lançou-me um olhar irritado</i>
flipping	<i>até saltavam</i>
glared	<i>olhou para mim zangada</i>
goalie	<i>guarda redes</i>
grin	<i>sorriso aberto</i>
gutted	<i>completamente desfeita</i>
lead	<i>chumbo</i>
let's stuff 'em	<i>toca a derrotá-las</i>
mock-sexy pout	<i>fazer beicinho</i>
muttered	<i>murmurei</i>
niggling	<i>a remoer-me</i>
no pushover	<i>tarefa fácil</i>
on strike	<i>feito greve</i>
pep talk	<i>conversa destinada a encorajar a equipa</i>
rattling	<i>a bater umas nas outras</i>
roar	<i>brado da multidão</i>
scorched down the road	<i>acelerava pela rua abaixo</i>
second wind	<i>segundo fôlego</i>
shrieking	<i>a gritar</i>
sternly	<i>à speramente</i>
trudged	<i>caminhei pesadamente</i>
unfounded	<i>infundados</i>
were all up for	<i>todas entusiasmadas com</i>
wheeze	<i>respirar com dificuldade</i>
whipped out	<i>sacou (da máquina)</i>
whisked out of	<i>levados rapidamente</i>
wobbling	<i>a cambalear</i>