

Using MUST and CAN'T in Logical Conclusions

Harry must be crazy!

(By Brendan O'Connell and Jane Lawson at DailyStep.com)

Harry opened his eyes slowly and looked around the room. "I must be dreaming," he thought, "this looks just like a police cell!" He closed his eyes again, then realised with a shock that he was lying on a hard bed in a small room with bars on the window and a large metal door.



"Oh no, I can't be dreaming - this is really happening! This really is a police cell. But how did I get here?" Poor Harry could not remember anything at all! His mouth was dry and he had a pounding headache. "I must have drunk too much last night but... no, I can't have drunk too much because I never drink more than one glass of wine."

Then Harry started to remember a little about the night before. He had gone to a nice Italian restaurant with Mavis. It was their second date and things were going well but something must have gone wrong during the meal. What had he done?

Harry sat up on the hard bed and put his hand in his pocket. To his surprise, he found a small packet of pills. He read the label, which said "Warning! Do not mix with alcohol!" Then Harry remembered that his doctor had prescribed some powerful painkillers for Harry's bad back, but the doctor can't have mentioned that it was dangerous to mix them with alcohol and Harry must have forgotten to read the instructions on the packet.

Suddenly, and with great embarrassment, Harry remembered more of what had happened the previous night. He saw himself dancing wildly in the middle of the busy restaurant to his favourite Abba song, Dancing Queen. The waiter had asked him to sit down but Harry had pushed him over, causing him to drop several plates of food. He had then tried to persuade Mavis to dance with him but she had started to cry and had run out of the restaurant. She must have thought that he had gone completely mad. The last thing he could remember was seeing two big, angry-looking policemen entering the restaurant. He had tried to escape through the kitchen but they must have caught him. The police must have arrested him and locked him in this cell.



"Oh no what have I done," he thought, "the pills must have reacted with the alcohol and caused me to behave like a drunken hooligan. Mavis must have been so

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embarrassed. Will she ever forgive me? Why do I always get it so wrong?"

In this story about poor Harry, I have highlighted all the uses of the modal verbs **MUST** and **CANT**. These two modal verbs have many uses in English, but in this story they are all used for reaching logical conclusions. Take a look at the Audio Word Study below to learn how to use these structures. If you are a subscriber to our Daily Audio Lessons, you can hear and download the Audio Word Study, and you can also download this story **Harry must be crazy!** in MP3 audio and PDF text formats at the bottom of this page. If you would like to subscribe, you can find out below the Word Study all the topics coming soon in our Daily Audio Lessons.

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