

Lesson Thirty-two

Must

Strong form: mʌst; weak forms: məst, məs

There are two senses of **must**: one is concerned with supposition, or making deduction, and in this sense it is usual for the strong form to be used, (e.g. 'If he's late, he **must** be ill'). The other sense is related to obligation: the word may be strong in which case it has the strong form, (e.g. 'you **must** try harder'), or unstressed in which case the pronunciation is weak form / məs / before a consonant, or / məst / before a vowel, (e.g. 'Each of us **must** buy some' / 'i:tʃ əv əs məs 'baɪ sʌm /, 'you **must** always look first' / ju məst ,ɔ: lʌwɪz lʊk 'fɜ: st /).