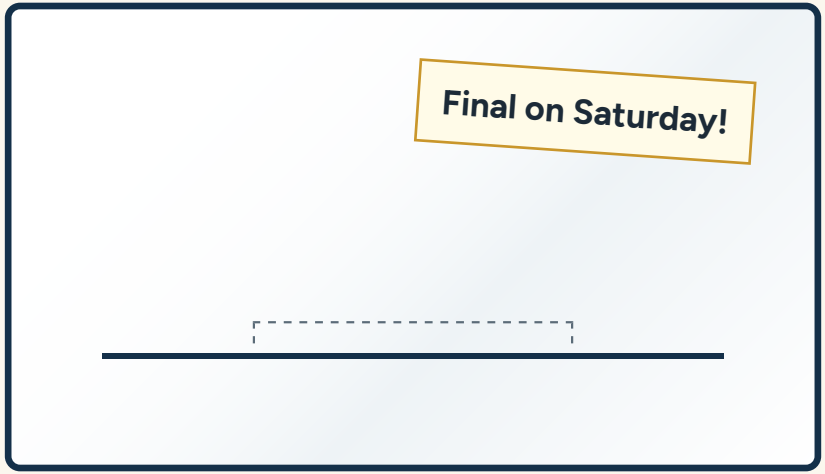
The Mystery of the Missing Trophy

Today I will learn to say what I'm sure about and what I only suspect – about now and about the past.

- I say **must have taken**, not *must took*.
- I rule things out with **can't have**: *It can't have been Jake.*
- I give a reason: *…because he was in Brighton.*
- I get information by **asking**, not by showing my card.

What happened here?



What do you think happened?

Where **might** the trophy be now?

sure · possible · impossible

Listen: an announcement

Listen to Mr Hughes. Answer the questions.

1. What has disappeared?
2. When did Mr Brown last see it?
3. Why does Mr Hughes think someone used a key?
4. How many keys open the cabinet?
5. Why does the team need the trophy on Saturday?

Listen: answers

1. the silver football trophy
2. at half past three yesterday afternoon
3. the glass isn't broken
4. four – Mr Brown, Mrs Lane, Ms Okafor + a spare key in the staffroom
5. for the team photo before the final

So how did someone open the cabinet?

Someone must have used a key.

How sure are you?

must	I'm almost sure it's true. *It **must** be in the building.*
might / may / could	It's possible. *Jake **might** know something.*
can't / couldn't	I'm almost sure it's not true. *She **can't** be the thief.*

mustn't = you are not allowed to. It is **not** for guessing!

Now or in the past?

Now: modal + verb	**Past:** modal + **have** + 3rd form
It **must be** here.	Someone **must have opened** it.
She **might know**.	The cleaner **might have seen** something.
He **can't be** the thief.	He **can't have taken** it.

Not: must took · might has seen · mustn't have

The investigation

1. Work in pairs: **A** and **B**.
2. **Don't show** your clue cards.
3. Ask questions. Complete the table.
4. 3 × 5 minutes.

Where was…?

What time did… leave / arrive?

Who saw…?

Who has a key?

What does your card say about…?

Sorry, could you say that again?

The suspects

Mr Brown	caretaker – has a key
Mrs Lane	headteacher – has a key
Ms Okafor	PE teacher – has a key
Jake	Year 11, team captain – no key

Who **can't** it be? Why?

Your verdict

We think it **must have been** … because …

It **can't have been** … because …

It **can't have been** … because …

We're not sure about … – he / she **might have** …

The most important clue was …

Do you agree with the other pairs? Which clue was the most important?

The solution

Ms Okafor must have taken the trophy – but she didn't steal it!

- She left her own keys at home → she took the **spare key** at 5.05 (“A.O.” = Adaeze Okafor).
- She went in through the **back door** from the PE corridor.
- Receipt, 5.40 pm: clean and engrave – **ready on Saturday**, before the final.
- Mr Brown, Mrs Lane and Jake **can't have taken it**.

She **should have told** Mr Hughes!

Exit ticket · Homework

Exit ticket: Your friend didn't come to school today. *must have… might have… can't have…* + traffic lights ● ● ●

Homework – choose A or B

A. Write a short mystery (80–100 words) with three clues and the question *What happened?* Your classmates will solve it next lesson.

B. Do the exercises in the lesson about *must, can't, might* on **zadruzynski.com**.