

IELTS Speaking

Structures: past modal: must have been + age

Paul Winterbottom

Modal: **must** about **PAST**: I must have been about XXX

Use: for saying **WHEN** something happened in the past: using **AGE** at the time

IMPORTANT: can only be used for things that are quite a long time ago (not last month!)

Examples:

I think... I **must** have been about 14... something like that...

I think... I **must** have been in my early teens... something like that...

Note:

Use with “about” + my approximate age **OR** “in my early teens” etc (which is approximate)

Modal: must about PAST: I must have been about XXX

Note:

1. “something like that” to emphasise approximate
2. Speak in a thoughtful way

Examples in context:

I don't remember exactly when... but... I think... I must have been about 8 or 9... something like that...

I cannot remember exactly when I last listened to classical music... but... I suppose... I must have been in my late teens... something like that...

Modal: I must have been about XXX

I think I must have been about... 7 or 8 (years old)... something like that

