

～に違いない

must be / no doubt

Romaji: **ni chigai nai**

～に違いない means “must be” — a confident conclusion drawn from evidence in front of you. 誰もいない。もう帰ったに違いない is “Nobody’s here. They must have gone home.” Attach it to plain forms; nouns and な-adjectives attach directly, with no だ. It sits at the confident end of the certainty scale, well past かもしれない and でしょう: you have not verified the fact, but you are in no doubt about it.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb / い-adjective (plain) + に違いない

電気がついている。まだ起きているに違いない。 — The light’s on. They must still be up.

Noun / な-adjective (no だ) + に違いない

あの人は先生に違いない。 — That person must be a teacher.

Polite: ～に違いありません

彼女はこの町の出身に違いありません。 — She must be from this town.

Concluding about the past: ～たに違いない

道が濡れている。雨が降ったに違いない。 — The road is wet. It must have rained.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{でんき}電気がついている。まだ^お起きているに^{ちが}違いない。

The light is on. They must still be awake.

② ^{みち}道が濡れている。雨^{あめ}が降^ふったに^{ちが}違いない。

The road is wet. It must have rained.

③ ^{かのじょ}彼女は^{まち}この町の^{しゅっしん}出身に^{ちが}違いありません。

She must be from this town.

注意点 NUANCES

- It is a conclusion about someone or something else. ×私は疲れているに違いない is odd, because you do not need to deduce your own tiredness.
- The certainty ladder runs かもしれない (might) → でしょう (probably) → はずだ (should be, by reasoning) → に違いない (must be, no doubt).
- It is emphatic and slightly literary. In relaxed conversation, きっと～と思う or 絶対～よ often does the same work more naturally.
- Nouns take no だ: 学生に違いない, never ×学生だに違いない. This is the mistake that shows up most in writing.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Look around the room you are in and draw three confident conclusions from what you can see, each with ～に違いない. Then downgrade one of them to かもしれない and listen to how much weaker it gets.