



# Modal Verbs

## “May” and “Might”

Grammar > Intermediate 5



# Exercise 1 – Learning

Modal verbs in this lesson: **may, might**

## May

The modal verb '**may**' is used for two purposes:

1. *Express Possibility*: It **may** rain tomorrow.
2. *Ask For/Give Permission*: **May** I go home now? Yes, you **may** go home.

Add '**not**' after '**may**' to make negative sentences.

- It **may not** rain tomorrow.
- You **may not** go home yet.

**Tip:** Saying '**May I?**' by itself is enough to ask for permission for something. You can use this on a bus to ask to sit next to someone.



## Might

May and might are usually interchangeable when expressing possibility.

- It **might** rain tomorrow.
- It **may** rain tomorrow.

**Might is generally not used for asking for or giving permission.** For example 'Might I go home now?' is incorrect.

Another difference is that '**might**' expresses a lower likelihood or possibility of something happening. For instance, we can say the idiom '**Pigs might fly**' to mean that something is highly unlikely.

- Megan: I'm going to marry Ronaldo!
- Lisa: And pigs might fly! (= *you will marry him when pigs fly... so never!*)

This idiom would not make sense with 'pigs *may* fly,' because that means that pigs could actually fly.

**Tip:** When speaking, just use '**may**' for permission, and '**might**' for possibility. This way, you'll never misuse '**may**' for very unlikely situations, and you'll never incorrectly use '**might**' for permission.



## Exercise 2 – Ordering

*Put the words into the correct order.*

**Example:** You have may a seat. → You may have a seat.

### Content:

1. I May borrow your book?
2. be He might a police officer.
3. not might He be in Germany anymore.
4. May my visit I friend?
5. Yes, may you.
6. The might not store be open now.
7. It may rain not this afternoon.
8. It rain might afternoon this.



## Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

*Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.*

**Example:** go to Russia. → I might go to Russia.

### Content:

1. put my bags here.
2. hang my clothes here.
3. have a glass of water.
4. have a dance.
5. wake up.
6. go to sleep.