May and Might

A modal auxiliary verb is used to modify the mood of a verb. Here is a list of the modal auxiliary verbs:

| Can | Could | May | Might | Shall | Should | Will | Would | Must | Have to | Ought to | Had better | Used to |

**May:** “May” is used to express permission or possibility. The negative of may is “may not”.

Example: I *may* become a doctor.

In this example “*may*” is used to express the possibility of me becoming a doctor in the future.

Example: *May* I have a glass of water?

In this example “*may*” is used to ask permission to have a glass of water.

Directions: Make your own sentences using “*may*”.

1) _____________________________________________________________________

2) _____________________________________________________________________

**Might:** “Might” is used to express possibility. It differs from “may” in that the possibility it expresses is usually smaller. The negative of might is “*might not*”.

Example: I *might* become a doctor when I grow up, but I doubt it.

In this example “*might*” is used to express the small possibility that I will become a doctor when I grow up.
Directions: Now make your own sentences using “might”.

1) _____________________________________________________________________

2) _____________________________________________________________________

Directions: Circle the correct auxiliary modal verb in each sentence.

Example: If you leave the stove on, the house (may, might) catch on fire.

   1) When I grow up, I (may, might) become an engineer.

   2) There is a small chance the we (may, might) go to the beach this weekend.

   3) There is a good chance that we (might, may) have to postpone the meeting.

   4) Billy and I (may, might) cook dinner tonight.

   5) The airplane (might, may) crash.

   6) You never know, I (may, might) become president one day.

   7) (May, Might) I have a piece of bread please?

   8) It (might, may) snow tonight, but I doubt it.

   9) If Jane studied harder, she (might, may) have gotten a better grade on the test.

  10) I (might, may) not be coming to your party tonight. I told my mother that I would stay home and make cookies with her already. I’m sorry.