

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
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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 change 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.