Lesson 1

MODALS

May / May not

Might / Might not
May / Might

May / May not
Might/ Might not

Talking about **possibility**
(probability, uncertainty)

Asking for and giving permission
Modal verbs **may** and **might** have the following characteristics:

1. They are followed by the base form of another verb to indicate **probability**. (possibility)

   For Example:

   We **may** to swim.  \(\times\)  We **may** swim.  \(\checkmark\)

   They **might** to come. \(\times\)  They **might** come. \(\checkmark\)
Modal verbs **may** and **might** have the following characteristics:

2. -s is not added to the third person singular.

**For Example:**

- Martin mays sleep. **✗**  Martin may sleep. **✓**
- We mights go. **✗**  We might go. **✓**
Modal verbs **may** and **might** have the following characteristics:

1. We do not use do/don’t to form questions and negatives.

   **For Example:**

   Do I may come in? ❌  May I come in? ✅
   She don’t might sing. ❌  She might not sing. ✅
### Positive (Affirmative) Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>You</th>
<th>He</th>
<th>She</th>
<th>It</th>
<th>We</th>
<th>They</th>
<th>may</th>
<th>might</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>swim.</td>
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<td>see.</td>
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<td>walk</td>
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<td>play.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>run.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Negative Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>May not / Might not</th>
<th>Action(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>(mayn’t)</td>
<td>swim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>(mayn’t)</td>
<td>see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td></td>
<td>walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td></td>
<td>play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It</td>
<td></td>
<td>run.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**May / Might**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Question (Interrogative) Form</strong></th>
<th><strong>May</strong></th>
<th><strong>Might</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>only to ask for permission</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>he</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>we</td>
<td>she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come in? join you?</td>
<td></td>
<td>it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know us? come early?</td>
<td></td>
<td>they</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Talking about possibility
We use **may/might** to talk about **possibility** in the present or future time.

We understand that there is **uncertainty** in the sentence.

**Might** expresses more uncertainty than **may** does.
I **may** work this weekend, but I’m not sure.

I **might** work this weekend, but I’m not sure.
I may be late tonight.

I might be late tonight.
May / Might

More examples;

Take an umbrella. It **might** rain.

= =

Take an umbrella. It **may** rain.
However, notice that **might** expresses more uncertainty than **may** does.
They may arrive any minute now.

He may not be at school at this time.

I might go on holiday in June.

He might go to Los Angeles.

She might not come to the party.
See the difference:

- I’m playing tennis tomorrow. (sure)
- I might play tennis tomorrow. (possible)
There are clouds in the sky. It may rain tomorrow. =

Maybe it will rain tomorrow.
Asking for and giving permission
We use may to ask and give permission in a very formal way.

For Example:

- May I use your computer?
- May I sit here?
- May I ask a question?
- May we come in?
Exercise 1. Write sentences with “might” or “might not”.

1. (It is possible that I won’t pass the exam.)
2. (It is possible that Suzan will visit her grandparents.)
3. (It is possible that I will go to my friend’s birthday party tonight.)
4. (It is possible that my brother won’t arrive on time.)
5. (It is possible that it will rain today.)
Exercise 2. Put the words in the correct order.

1. next / I / play / may / football / Saturday.

2. might / American / she / be.

3. ask / we / may / question / a /?

4. not / Alice and Kevin / arrive / week / might / next.
Exercise 3. Circle the correct option.

1) Your friend’s story ............ true.
   a) may don’t be    b) may be not    c) may not be    d) might be not

2) I can’t find my keys. They ............ in the car.
   a) might being    b) might be not    c) may not    d) may be

3) The sky is dark. It ................. rain.
   a) might to    b) may to    c) mays    d) might

4) There’s a lot of work to do. We ............ finish all of them until tomorrow.
   a) may not    b) may to    c) might to not    d) mights

5) ........ I have another piece of cake, please?
   a) Might    b) Might not    c) May    d) May not
Exercise 4. Write requests or orders using “may”.

1. Ask if you can answer the phone.
   .................................................................?
2. Ask if you can enter the meeting room.
   .................................................................?
3. Tell them they can go home after the meeting has finished.
   .................................................................
4. Ask if you can leave the files on the table.
   .................................................................?