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B1 MODALS ≈ 27 MIN

Might, Could, May — *practice on paper*

You have built the lesson — now lock in the three maybe-verbs. New examples, same scale.

Not certain? **might · could · may** + base verb · formal permission: **May I** · polite request: **Could you**

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ◯ 2 · FILL-IN ◯ 3 · CORRECT ◯ 4 · WRITE ◯

BRICK 1 · SORT BY JOB · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Read each sentence quietly. Does the modal express a possibility — maybe, not certain? → left column. Is someone asking for permission or making a polite request? → right column. Watch who is asking whom!

- The train might be full at this time.
- She may know the new password already.
- The price could go up next quarter.
- We might need a bigger meeting room.
- The files may still be on the old server.
- May I use your phone for a second?
- Could you open the window, please?
- Could I borrow your charger?
- May I come in?
- Could you repeat the last part, please?

POSSIBILITY – MAYBE	PERMISSION / POLITE REQUEST

BRICK 2 · FILL IN MIGHT OR CAN · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Fill in **might** or **can**. A concrete maybe on this one occasion → **might**. Something that generally happens sometimes → **can**. Read the whole sentence before you choose.

01 Careful — that coffee _____ spill on your keyboard.

02 Don't wait with dinner — I _____ be home late tonight.

03 The wifi in this hotel _____ be really slow in the evenings.

04 We _____ miss the last tram if we don't leave now.

05 It _____ be hard to find parking near the stadium on match days.

06 I can't find my keys — they _____ still be in my jacket.

07 Cheap cables _____ break within a month — you get what you pay for.

08 Let's leave ten minutes early — the traffic _____ be bad at five.

YOUR BUILD | 1 · SORTING | 2 · FILL-IN | 3 · CORRECT | 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence hides exactly one mistake with **might**, **could**, **may** or **can**. Underline it and write the whole sentence correctly.

01 Don't leave your laptop in the car — it can get stolen.

02 Our new trainee mights start next Monday.

03 He might to finish the draft by noon.

04 May you check the numbers once more, please?

05 Tom hasn't decided yet — he couldn't join the offsite next week.

06 It might rain a lot in Scotland in autumn — it does every year.

BRICK 4 · WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one sentence for each prompt. Check the form — modal + base verb — and make sure the modal fits the job.

01 Your status update: "This could …" — name a risk to your project.

02 Your request: "Could you …?" — ask a colleague for something.

03 Your formal question: "May I …?" — ask your manager for permission.

04 Your weekend: "I might … this weekend." — something that may happen.

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ After might, could and may I use the base verb — no to, no -s.
- ☐ For a concrete maybe I use might, could or may — never can; for general possibilities, can fits.
- ☐ I ask for permission formally with "May I…?" and politely-neutral with "Could I…?".
- ☐ I start a request to others with "Could you…?" — and "maybe not" is "might not".

Not every box ticked? Build the lesson once more and try this sheet again tomorrow.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 The train **might** be full at this time.
Possibility — "might" means maybe, not certain.

02 She **may** know the new password already.
Possibility — "may" only speculates about the present here.

03 The price **could** go up next quarter.
Possibility — "could" leaves the future open.

04 We **might** need a bigger meeting room.
Possibility — the need is not fixed yet.

05 The files **may** still be on the old server.
Possibility — nobody knows for sure.

06 **May** I use your phone for a second?
Permission — asking formally with "May I…?".

07 **Could** you open the window, please?
Polite request — "Could you…?" addresses someone else.

08 **Could** I borrow your charger?
Permission — polite and neutral with "Could I…?".

09 **May** I come in?
Permission — "May I…?" is the most formal step.

10 **Could** you repeat the last part, please?
Polite request — "Could you…?" plus "please".

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 **might** spill
This one cup, right now → might; can would be general.

02 **might** be home late
Tonight, one concrete case → might.

03 **can** be really slow
Happens generally and regularly → can.

04 **might** miss the last tram
This one trip today → might.

05 **can** be hard
True on every match day → can.

06 **might** still be in my jacket
A concrete guess about these keys → might.

07 **can** break
A general truth about cheap cables → can.

08 **might** be bad
Today's traffic at five o'clock → might.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 Don't leave your laptop in the car — it **might** get stolen.
A concrete possibility for this one car → might, not can.

02 Our new trainee **might** start next Monday.
Modals never take -s: might, not mights.

03 He **might finish** the draft by noon.
A modal takes the base verb — no to.

04 **Could** you check the numbers once more, please?
Requests to others take "Could you…?" — "may" is only for your own permission.

05 Tom hasn't decided yet — he **might not join** the offsite next week.
"Maybe not" is might not — couldn't means "ruled out".

06 It **can** rain a lot in Scotland in autumn — it does every year.
A general, recurring possibility → can, not might.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ — just check that your modal fits the job and takes the base verb.

01 "This **could push back** the launch date."
Hedging: "could" names the risk without making it a fact.

02 "**Could you review** my slides before Thursday?"
A polite request to another person → Could you.

03 "**May I take** next Friday off?"
Formal permission for yourself → May I.

04 "I **might drive** to the lake this weekend."
A concrete maybe for one weekend → might + base verb.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PAIR WITH THIS
Can and Can't
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/can-cant

NEXT STEP
Must, Have To, Should
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/must-have-to-should

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