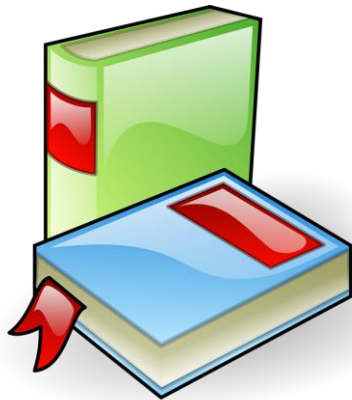


MODAL VERBS

MAY & MIGHT



ENGLISH
GRAMMAR



OUTLINE: MAY and MIGHT

1. General characteristics of MAY
2. Affirmative, negative and interrogative forms of MAY
3. General characteristics of MIGHT
4. Affirmative, negative and interrogative forms of MIGHT

Step 1: Characteristics of MAY

1. MAY is used in the present tense.

- *I may be sick.*

2. A verb stem always follows MAY.

- *He may go to the cinema today.*

3. We do not add 'TO' after MAY.

- *She may ~~to~~ perform this afternoon.*

4. Additionally, MAY is able to replace other auxiliary verbs.

- *How may I help you?*

MODAL VERB (MAY)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
may					

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL FORM)							
I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
may not mayn't							

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
May							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
go?							



Step 2: Affirmative Form of MAY(1)

1. MAY is used to express **possibility** in the present. (UNCERTAINTY)
 - *He may be allergic to peanuts.*
2. MAY is used to express **possibility** in the future. (GUESS ABOUT THE FUTURE)
 - *He may come tomorrow.*
3. MAY is used to express **possibility** in the future in zero conditionals. (HYPOTHESIS)
 - *I may go if you repair my car.*
4. MAY is used to express **possibility** in the past. (GUESS ABOUT THE PAST)
 - *He may have eaten the pizza.*

Step 2: Affirmative Form of MAY(2)

1. MAY is used to give **permission to someone** in the present. (ALLOWING SOMEONE TO)
 - *You may stand up.*
2. MAY is used to express **good wishes** to someone. (MOSTLY POSITIVE)
 - *May you live a long life.*
3. MAY is used to make **suggestions** to someone. (FRIENDLY OFFER)
 - *You may want to add sugar to your tea.*

Step 3: Negative Form of MAY (1)

1. MAY + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in the present. (IMPROBABLE)
 - *He may not be sick.*
2. MAY + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in the future. (GUESS ABOUT THE FUTURE)
 - *He may not come tomorrow.*
3. MAY + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in zero conditionals. (HYPOTHESIS)
 - *I may not go if you don't repair my car.*

Step 3: Negative Form of MAY (2)

1. MAY + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in the past. (GUESS ABOUT THE PAST)
 - *He may not have repaired my car.*
2. MAY + NOT is used to express **prohibition** in the present. (NOT ALLOWED TO)
 - *He may not enter this room.*
3. MAY + NOT is used to express **bad luck** to someone. (NEGATIVE)
 - *May you not see the light of day.*

Step 4: Interrogative Form of **MAY**

1. MAY is used to ask for **permission** in the present. (FROM SOMEONE)
 - *May I go to the bathroom, teacher?*
2. MAY is used to ask questions in conditional sentences. (HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION)
 - *What may happen if snow falls in the desert?*
3. MAY is used to ask for **information**. (WH- QUESTIONS)
 - *What may I do to make you feel happy?*
4. MAY is used to make **requests**. (TO SOMEONE)
 - *May I call you today?*

Step 5: Characteristics of **MIGHT**

1. **MIGHT** is used in the past tense.

- *He told me that he might come today.*

2. **MIGHT** is also used in second conditionals.

- *If I won the lottery, I might buy a big house.*

3. A verb stem always follows **MIGHT**.

- *He might go to the cinema today.*

4. We do not add '**TO**' after **MIGHT**.

- *She might ~~to~~ call you today.*

5. Other auxiliary verbs can be replaced by **MIGHT**.

- *How might we change the state of the world?*

MODAL VERB (MIGHT)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
might					

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)							
I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
might not mightn't							

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
Might							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
go?							



Step 6: Affirmative Form of **MIGHT**

1. MIGHT is used to express **possibility** in the present. **(VERY UNCERTAIN)**
 - *He might be sick.*
2. MIGHT is used to express **possibility** in the future. **(GUESS ABOUT THE FUTURE)**
 - *I might come tomorrow.*
3. MIGHT is used to express **possibility** in the future in **conditional sentences**. **(HYPOTHESIS)**
 - *If they were rich, they might buy a house with a swimming pool.*
4. MIGHT is used to express **possibility** in the past. **(GUESS ABOUT THE PAST)**
 - *He might have stolen the car.*
5. MIGHT is used to make suggestions to someone in the present. **(FRIENDLY OFFER)**
 - *You might consider taking up this job.*

Step 7: Negative Form of **MIGHT**

1. MIGHT + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in the present. (VERY UNCERTAIN)

- *He might not be sick.*

2. MIGHT + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in the future. (GUESS ABOUT THE FUTURE)

- *He might not come tomorrow.*

3. MIGHT + NOT is used to express **impossibility** in the past in **third conditionals**.

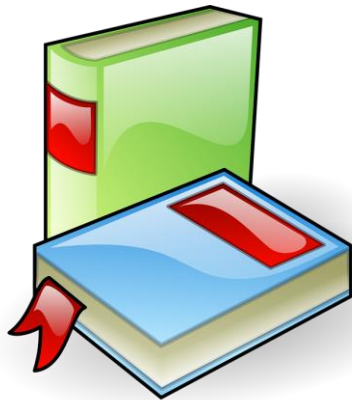
- *He might not have won, if luck had not been on his side. (HYPOTHESIS)*

Step 8: Interrogative Form of **MIGHT**

1. MIGHT is used to ask for information. **(FROM SOMEONE)**
 - *How might we change the situation?*
2. MIGHT is used to ask questions in **conditional sentences**. **(HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION)**
 - *What might happen if he comes today?*
3. MIGHT is used to ask for **permission** in a formal way. **(FROM SOMEONE)**
 - *Might I borrow your book?*
4. MIGHT is used to make polite and formal **requests**. **(TO SOMEONE)**
 - *Might I see your passport?*

MODAL VERBS

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