



Modals

Shall, will, can, may,
Should, would, could, might,
must, need, dare, ought to, & used to.

Modals are used to express various moods & attitudes of the speaker. It expresses requests, command, threat, ability, permission, possibility, condition, suggestion, etc.



More about modals

1 They are special set of verbs which act as helping verbs. They are called modal auxiliaries. They can't function as main verbs.

Ex—1. I have a car.

2. I have written a poem.

2 They don't have present participle & past participle form.

Ex 1. I am writing a poem.

2. I have written a poem.

3 It doesn't take inflexion in the third person singular.

Ex 1. I work hard.

2. He works hard.



4 It can't take 'to'

Ex 1. You have to bring the book to the class.

5 They have only two forms. That is present and past. So they are called defective verbs.

6 They are used to indicate future.



May - Might

May & might express request, permission, possibility, probability (less possible), a wish or blessing, a curse or guess.

Note: May/might is used in present & to indicate future. Might is used in past. The difference between the use of may and might are very subtle.

Let's try to learn it.

May I begin the program now?

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May I go out?

May I come in?



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1. May is used to express requests & permission
(seeking & granting)

1. May I come in?

2. May I go out?

3. It is sultry, may I open the window?

4. I have lost my phone, may I use your phone?

5. May I park the car in your compound?

6. I'm busy now, you may come later.

7. If you've finished your work, you may go. (Grant Permission)



2. May is used to express possibility.

Where is Krishna ?

He may be in the office.

He may be in the house.

He may be in the class.

Ask Radha, she may answer.



1. The sky is cloudy, it may rain today.
2. He's clever, he may win a scholarship.
3. If you ask him, he may help you.
4. It is late, he may come tomorrow.
5. Increase in the petrol price may come as a shock to people.



3. May is used to express a wish & curse.

1. May God bless you!

2. May God help you!

3. May you live long!

4. We may expect a good harvest this year.

5. May he go to hell.

6. May he live to regret it.



4. May is used to express purpose.

1. He is working hard, he may pass the exam.
2. Let the dog loose, so that it may have a run.
3. Learn that you may teach others.
4. Earn that you may spend.
5. I know your pain; but eat something so that you may live.



5. May is used to express hope, uncertainty, irony.

1. He's clever he may succeed.
2. Rupee fall may boost tourism.
3. Who may you be?
4. Who are you may I ask?



1. Might is the past tense of may & it is used in reported speech.

1. He said, “I may hire a car.”

He said that he might hire a car.

2. They told me, “They may apply for bank loan.”

They told me that they might apply for bank loan.

3. Padma said, “She may become a teacher.”

Padma said that she might become a teacher.



4. He said, “He may marry her without dowry.”

He said that he might marry her without dowry.

5. She said, “I may go to the movie today.”

She said that she might go to the movie that day.



2. Might is used to express a polite request & permission.

1. After completing his work, he asked if he might leave.

2. He asked if he might bring his friend to the party.

3. I'll come later; you might wait for me at the bus stand.

4. Might I clean the table? ('Might' is more polite than 'May')



3. Might is used to express probability.

Might expresses probability or slightly increases doubt than may.

1. The sky is cloudy. It might rain today.
2. She is earning, I think she might be happy with her husband.
3. He's a well known writer, he might be awarded noble prize.
4. You have scored above 90%, you might win a scholarship.
5. Don't wait for me; I might be few minutes late.



4. Might is used to express purpose & guess.

1. Soldiers died in the war so that we might live.
2. He thought that she might have missed the plane.
3. Jackson's wife suspected that he might have been drugged.



5. Might express a wish when it is used in 'that clauses' after such verbs as hope, trust, etc.

1. I hope that the lecturers might call off the strike.

2. I trust that this program may/might work out well.



*6. **Might** is used in the conditional clauses when expression is introduced by a verb in past tense.*

1. If you invited him he **might** come.

2. If he worked hard he **might** get a first class.

3. I knew we **might** have to wait at the gate.



7. Might is used to indicate future possibility.

[uncertainty]

1. Father: At what time are you going to the station?

Son: The train leaves at 10:30 I'll go at 10.00.

Father: Take a taxi, you might miss the train.

2. You should work hard, or else you might fail in the examination.

3. Kumar is not in the office, he might be working at home today.



8. Might is used to express gentle reproach

1. You might spend the money with a little care.
2. You might have told me earlier about it.
3. You might go there a little early.
4. He is studying; you might make a little less noise.



Note:-

1. May I have a cup of coffee?

Yes, you may.

No, you mayn't.

2. Might I barrow your pen for a while?

Yes, you might Vanita.

No, you mightn't.

Normally mightn't is replaced by milder expression-*I'm afraid not*



3. may/might are often used to suggest the idea i.e. to expect, hope for etc.

a) The weather is such that we may expect rains early this year.

b) With the corrupt politicians we might expect a civil war in the country.



4. In speech we can also indicate increased doubt or uncertainty by stressing may/might.

a) Darshan may lend you money.

b) Darshan might lend you money.



5. May/ Might is usually not used in the interrogative to express possibility.

Instead we use can/could

- a) Can it be true?
- b) Could it happen like this?
- c) May it be true. (hope, wish)



6. Can/Could /May/Might is used in expressing request, permission & possibility but may/might are more formal than could. Can is the most informal, so it is more usual in conversation

- a) Can/May I help you?
- b) You can/may go for a swim this afternoon.
- c) He can/may come to see me one day.

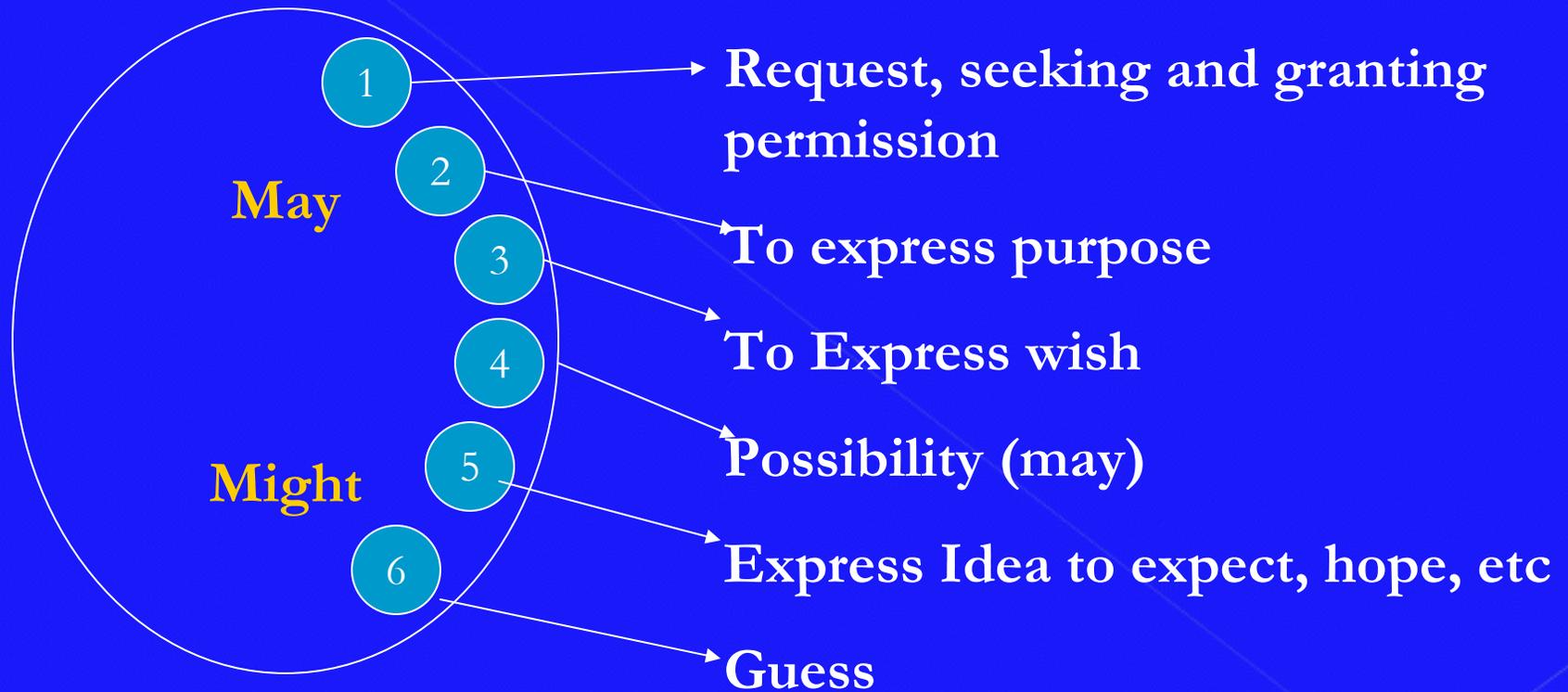


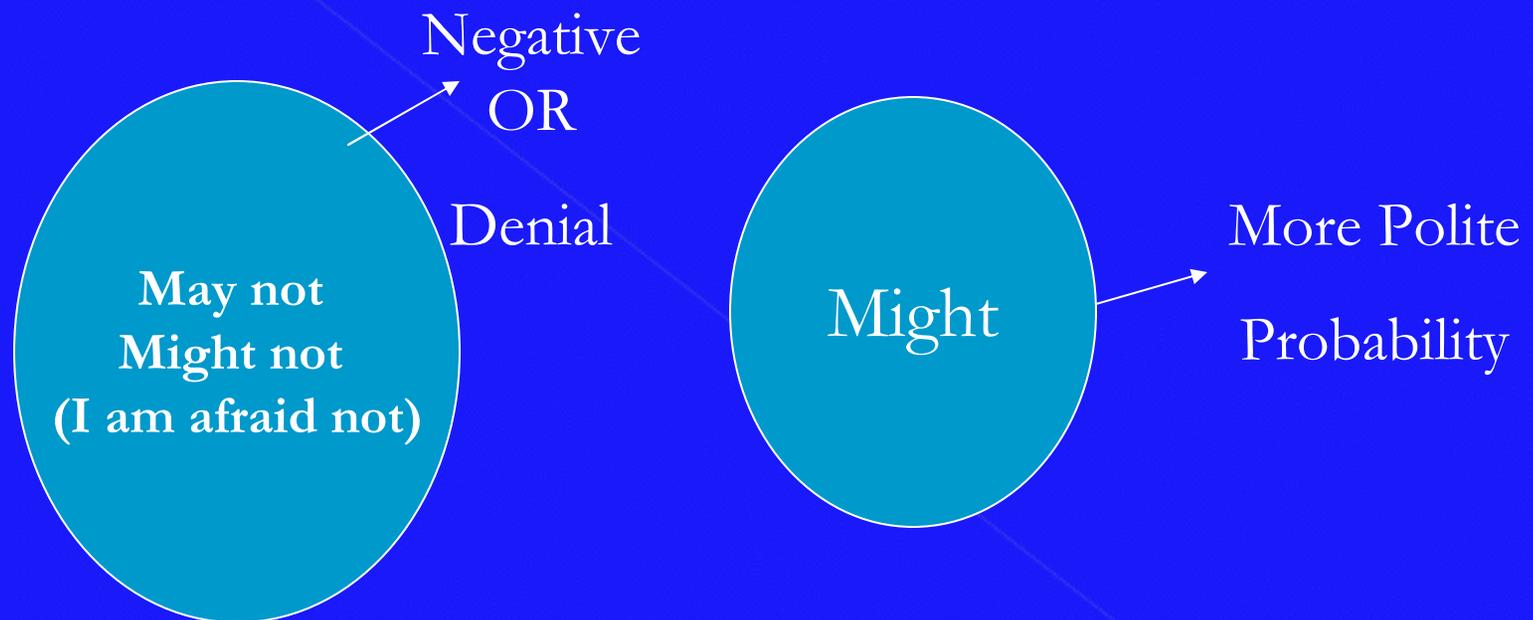
7. May/Might can be used instead of will/would to indicate possibility instead of certainty.

- a) If he sees you he will stop. (certain)
- b) If he sees you he may stop. (possibility)
- c) If you poured hot water into it, it might crack.
- d) If you poured hot water into it, it will crack.



Let's recall what we have learnt.







Exercise-1

1) I _____ have lost my pen. Did you see it any where? No, when did you last use your pen?

I _____ have used it when I was in the library.

You _____ have left it in the library.

2) Mother: Take an umbrella with you.

Son : What for?

Mother: It is cloudy, It _____ rain.



3) Radha : Purchase a lottery ticket for me.

Krishna : You ____ win. (**may + not**)

Radha : I ____ be lucky, who knows?

4) Son : _____ I watch TV tonight?

Mother : Yes, you _____.

No, you _____.

5) Father : Where is the knife?

Son : It ----- be in the kitchen.



6) You are tired, you-----take rest for one day.

7) You -----as well buy some shirts.

8) I hope that our country-----get rid of poverty.



- 9) We-----expect a good harvest this year.
- 10) They sacrificed their lives so that we----live.
- 11) If you invited him he----come.
- 12) I think he -----not be able to pay the money.
- 13) If we had taken the other road we ----have arrived earlier .



- 14) He is not receiving the call he ----be driving the car.
- 15) He said, “I –get a job”.
He said that he ---- get a job.
- 16) She said, “I ----- pass the exam”.
She said she ----- pass the exam.



Answers

- 1) might—may—might
- 2) might 3) mayn't—might
- 4) may—may—mayn't
- 5) may 6) may 8) might
- 9) may 10) might
- 11) might 12) may 13) might
- 14) may 15) may- might
- 16) may- might



I _____ pass the exam.

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Barking Cat



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GOOD LUCK

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