



May, Might and Could

May or *might* are modal auxiliary verbs. *May* or *might* can be used to say that something is possible or probable now or in the future (*may / might* + base form of verb). We are not certain that something will happen, but it is a possibility.

I may go to college next year, but I'm still not sure. (Perhaps I will go to college.)

I might send you a postcard while I'm away... if I remember!

The negative of *may* or *might* is *may not* or *might not*.

I may not go to college next year. I might look for a job instead. (Perhaps I will not go to college.)

I might not send you a postcard. I may forget.

The continuous form is *may / might* + *be* + verb-ing.

You can try calling me tonight but I might not be home. I might be going out with my parents.

Bother, the phone line is still engaged. Joe may be having a long phonechat with his girlfriend.



The past form is *may have* + past participle and *might have* + past participle.

I can't see Angie anywhere. She may have gone home.

- *I wonder why Ros didn't phone me last night.*

- *She might have forgotten.*

- *Where's Drew? He was meant to drop me at work!*

- *I think he's already left. He may not have remembered.*

Exercises

Here are some questions and answers. The words in the answers are not in the correct order. Put the words in each answer in the correct order.

1. What are you going to do after you graduate?

- I'm not sure. *do / some travelling / might / I / take / a year off / and*

2. Who are you going to the prom with?

- I haven't decided yet. *may go / I / with Tom, but / cute, / Hiro is / I might so / him with / go*

3. What are you going to have for lunch?

- I don't know. *good / so might I / that have / The pizza / looks*

4. Do you know where Satomi is?

- I think she's studying for her exam. *may / She / be / in / the / library*

Complete these sentences. You are not sure if you will do something.

5. Where will you go on holiday next year?

- Answer: *I may* _____

6. What are you going to do this weekend?

- Answer: *I might* _____

7. What are you going to have for dinner tomorrow night?

- Answer: *I may* _____

8. What do you think you will do when you retire?

- Answer: *I might* _____

Answers: 1. I might take a year off and do some travelling. 2. I may go with Tom, but Hiro is cute, so I might go with him. 3. The pizza looks good so I might have that. 4. She may be in the library. 5. - 8. Answers will vary.

