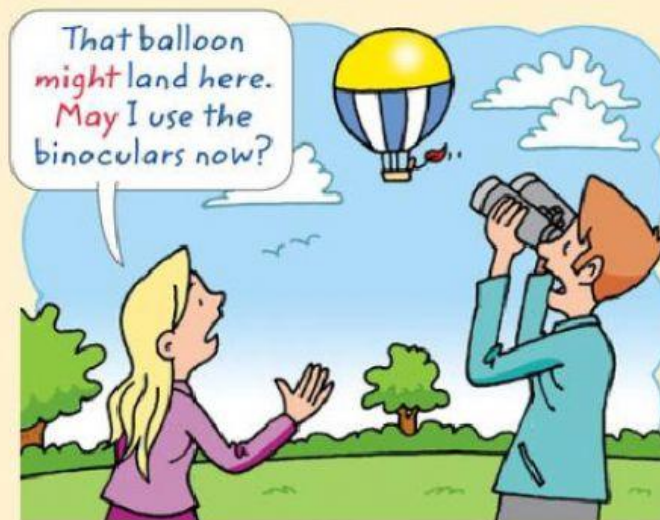


Might and may for possibility



Might and **may** are modal verbs. We use **might** and **may** to talk about something that is possible, but not definite.

Subject	<i>might (not) / may (not)</i>	Base form
It	might	land here.
She	may	want help.

We use **might / may** and **might not / may not** to talk about present possibilities.

is	might (may) be	might (may) not be	isn't
<i>There might be a message on it.</i>			
<i>James may have a pen.</i>			

We also use **might / may** and **might not / may not** to talk about future possibilities.

will	might (may)	might (may) not	won't
<i>You might hurt someone.</i>			
<i>It may land here.</i>			

We often use **I think ...** with **might / may** and **might not / may not** when we are not sure about the possibilities.

*I think I **might** go home now.*

15.1 What might happen? Complete the sentences with the endings below. Then listen and check.

eat it pop help you be a fox see a rainbow



▶ The cat might eat it !



1 I think this might _____



2 We might _____



3 Is it a dog? It might _____



4 The balloon might _____ !

Are the sentences in exercise 1 about a present (P) or future (F) possibility? Write P or F.

▶ P 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____



15.4 Add responses a–e to the conversations in pictures 1–4. Listen and check, then act out the conversations with a partner.



- a It might be in your bag.
- b I think you might have flu.
- c Do you think it might be Carla?
- ~~d It might snow.~~
- e It might be a present for me!



May for permission

We can use **may** in questions to ask for permission.
We also use **could** but **may** is more formal.





Write the questions in the correct order.
Then practise the conversations with a partner.



► I / ask / a question / may

May I ask a question?

Yes, go ahead. What is it?

1 borrow / I / your / may / dictionary

?

Yes, of course.

2 photocopier / may / use / I / the

?

I'm afraid it's not working at the moment.

3 my bike / here / leave / I / may

?

Yes, of course. It'll be fine here.

4 have / may / a cake / I

?

No, you may not!
You've just had breakfast!