

Using *may* and *can*

May is used to ask or give permission.

Can is used to show ability or power.

"May I climb up the tree, Father?" asked Jeff.
"You may if you can," replied Father.



Think! A. Read the following sentences carefully. Fill in each blank with *may* or *can*.

- _____ I go to the fair?
- _____ you lift this heavy box?
- _____ we take a trip into town?
- _____ I help you, Mother?
- George _____ read very well.
- John, _____ I see your book?
- Jeffrey, _____ you climb that tree?
- Mother said I _____ go with you.
- We _____ say Hebrews 11:7–14.
- _____ I rake the grass?
- You _____ do much better work.
- God _____ do anything but fail.

Think! B. Read each sentence carefully and fill in each blank with *may* or *can*.

- Mother, _____ we go to the store?
- Yes, you _____ go if you come back in time for dinner.
- _____ you blow up a balloon with one puff of air?
- No, but I _____ blow it up with three puffs of air.
- _____ you tell me the author of "The Owl and the Pussycat"?
- Who _____ say all of their verses from Hebrews 11?
- Patrick _____ say Hebrews 11:1–18 very well.
- Mother said I _____ have a birthday party this year.
- How _____ I go to Heaven?
- _____ I go to the library with you?



Write! C.

- Write an interrogative sentence about an airplane. Use *may* and *can* in your sentence.

- Write a declarative sentence about a piano. Use *can* and *a* in your sentence.
