

19 May I sit here?

Grammar Station

Modal Verbs: Can / May (Permission)

- We use **can** or **may** to give or ask for permission.
- The modal verbs **can** and **may** come before the base verb.
- May** is more formal than **can**. We don't use a short form for **may not**.



Positive			Negative		
Subject	Modal Verb	Base Verb	Subject	Modal Verb	Base Verb
I / You He / She / It We / They	can may	watch TV.	I / You He / She / It We / They	can't may not	watch TV.
Question			Answer		
Modal Verb	Subject	Base Verb	Yes	No	
Can May	I	sit here?	Yes, you can/may . Sure. / Of course.	No, you can't/may not . Sorry, you can't .	

Circle the correct words.

1. You sit down. 2. You read it.

3. You eat this. 4. You run.

A Circle the correct words.

- You go out.
- You run here.
- You sit here.
- You leave now.
- You can the snacks.
- You may on the sofa.
- You use the computer.
- You the vase.

B Complete the sentences with can or can't.

1. You listen to music here.

2. You use the bathroom.

3. You sit on the bench.

4. You read the books.

5. You borrow my umbrella.

6. You wear my new coat.

C Check the correct answers.

- Can I sit here? Yes, you can. Yes, you can't.
- May I play outside? No, you may. No, you may not.
- Can I take a break? Yes, you can. Yes, you may not.
- May I open the door? No, you can't. No, you can.
- Can I use your scissors? Yes, you may not. No, you may not.

Practice

A Complete the sentences.

- (may / jump)
 
 You may not jump in the elevator.
- (can / open)
 
 You can open the window.
- (may / speak)
 
 You may speak loudly.
- (can / use)
 
 You can use my pencil.

B Match the questions with the correct answers.

1. May I go now?	•	• Sure, come in and take a seat.
2. Can I swim here?	•	• Yes. What is your question?
3. Can I use your phone?	•	• Of course. Here you are.
4. May I come in?	•	• Sure. See you tomorrow.
5. Can I ask a question?	•	• No, you can't. It's too deep.

C Correct the underlined words and rewrite the sentences.

1. You use can my smartphone. ➔ You can use my smartphone.
2. You mayn't touch this painting. ➔ You may not touch this painting.
3. You brings may your pet. ➔ You bring may your pet.
4. Can I borrows your scarf? ➔ Can I borrow your scarf?
5. May uses I your computer? ➔ May I use your computer?

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Grammar in Writing

When you ask for permission, you can use can or may.

Complete the comic strip dialogue using can or may.



Review! Complete the chart.

Positive	Negative	Question
You can eat snacks.	You <u>can't eat</u> snacks.	<u>Can I eat</u> snacks?
You can go home.	You <u>.....</u> home.	<u>.....</u> home?
You may sit here.	You <u>.....</u> here.	<u>.....</u> here?
You may watch TV.	You <u>.....</u> TV.	<u>.....</u> TV?

LIVEWORKSHEETS