

Future Possibility: May, Might, Could**EXERCISE 1 AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE STATEMENTS**

Read Lauren's journal entry. Complete the sentences with the words in parentheses. Choose between affirmative and negative.

Thursday, July 3

I was supposed to go to the beach tomorrow, but the weather forecast says it

might rain

1. (might / rain)

. I'm not really sure what I'll do if it rains. I think

I may go shopping at the mall instead. It's a holiday

2. (may / go)

weekend, so there could be some good sales. I really need

3. (could / be)

some new clothes. I might be able to find a dress for John's party.

4. (might / be able to)

Maybe I'll call Julie. She might want to go with me. That would

5. (might / want)

be great. She always knows the latest clothing trends.

On second thought, shopping may be such a good idea.

6. (may / be)

The stores will probably be really crowded. I could go to a

7. (could / go)

movie instead. There's a Spanish film at the local movie theater, but I'm a little

afraid that I might not understand enough of it. My Spanish really isn't

8. (might / understand)

that good. Maybe I'll call Eric and ask him if he wants to take a drive to see Aunt

Marla and Uncle Phil. He might want to go, though, because he

9. (might / want)

doesn't like driving in the rain. It's crazy how much the weather affects people's

plans. Oh, well. I could stay home and read a good book. That

10. (could / stay)

might be the best thing to do.

11. (might / be)

EXERCISE 2 CONTRAST: BE GOING TO OR MIGHT

Read the conversations. Use *be going to* or *might* and the verbs from the box to complete the summary sentences.

buy	go	rain	see	work
call	have	read	visit	write

1. LAUREN: Hello, Julie? This is Lauren. Do you want to go to the mall with me?

JULIE: I don't know. I'm thinking about going to my parents'.

SUMMARY: Julie might visit her parents.
2. JULIE: What are you looking for at the mall?

LAUREN: I need to get a new dress for John's party.

JULIE: Good luck! I hope you find something.

SUMMARY: Lauren is going to buy a new dress.
3. LAUREN: Do you think we'll get some rain?

CARL: Definitely. Look at those clouds.

SUMMARY: Carl thinks it is going to rain.
4. LAUREN: What are you doing today?

CARL: I have tickets for a play.

SUMMARY: Carl is going to see a play.
5. LAUREN: What are you doing this weekend?

KAYLA: I'm not sure. I'm thinking about taking a drive to the country.

SUMMARY: Kayla might go for a ride.
6. LAUREN: Say, Eric. Do you want to see Aunt Marla and Uncle Phil tomorrow?

ERIC: I can't. I have to go into the office this weekend—even though it's a holiday.

SUMMARY: Eric is going to work this weekend.
7. LAUREN: How about dinner Saturday night?

ERIC: That's an idea. Can I call and let you know tomorrow?

LAUREN: Sure.

SUMMARY: Lauren and Eric are going to have dinner together.

8. LAUREN: Hi, Aunt Marla, How are you?

MARLA: Lauren! How are you? It's good to hear your voice. Listen, we just started dinner. Can I call you back?

LAUREN: Sure.

MARLA: OK. I'll speak to you later.

SUMMARY: Marla _____ Lauren later.

9. MARLA: Hi. It's Aunt Marla. Sorry about before. What are you doing home on a holiday weekend? Why aren't you out?

LAUREN: I'm tired. I just want to stay home with a good book.

SUMMARY: Lauren _____ a book.

10. MARLA: Do you have any other plans?

LAUREN: Maybe I'll catch up on some of my emails.

SUMMARY: Lauren _____ some emails.

EXERCISE 3 EDITING

Read Lauren's email. There are five mistakes in the use of modals to express future possibility. The first mistake is already corrected. Find and correct four more.

Hi Rachel,

How are you? It's the Fourth of July, and it's raining really hard. They say it could ^{clear}~~cleared~~ up later. Then again, it could not. You never know with the weather.

Do you remember my brother, Eric? He says hi. He might has dinner with me on Saturday night. We may go to a new Mexican restaurant that just opened in the mall.

I definitely might take some vacation time next month. Perhaps we could do something together. It might not be fun to do some traveling. What do you think? Let me know.

Lauren