

Grammar

Using Could, May, and Might


Could, may, and might are modals. We use them before a base verb (e.g., *could + be*).

Use these modals to show that you are uncertain something is true.

Ed isn't here. He **might** be sick.
Or he **could** have other plans.

Use these modals to say something is possible now or in the future.

Sue **may** take a vacation soon.
She **could** go to Lima, Peru.

D  10 Listen to the conversation. Write the word you hear in each blank: *could*, *may*, or *might*. Then, in pairs, practice the conversation. Finally, make five changes to the conversation and practice again.

Ellen: I'm not getting along with my roommate. I (1) _____ move out.

Ali: Really? Why? Your roommate seems very nice to me.

Ellen: For one thing, she's not easygoing. My friends came over last night, and she asked us to make less noise.

Ali: Well, exams are coming up soon. She (2) _____ have wanted to study.

Ellen: You (3) _____ be right ... but still, every time I invite her out, she says "no." Doesn't that seem kind of rude?

Ali: Not really. She (4) _____ just be shy and introverted rather than outgoing like you.

Ellen: Maybe ... You know what? I (5) _____ talk to her this evening and find out more about her personality.

Ali: I think that's a good idea.

may

could

might

may

might