

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 .



You **can** use my phone.



You **may not** come in.



Can I drink the milk?
- Yes, you **can**.



May I take your picture?
- No, you **may not**.

Circle the correct words.

1. You ☒ **can** ☐ **can't** sit down. 2. You ☐ **may** ☐ **may not** read it.
3. You ☐ **can** ☐ **can't** eat this. 4. You ☐ **may** ☐ **may not** run.

A Circle the correct words.

- You (☒ **can** / **cans**) go out.
- You (**can't** / **don't can**) run here.
- You (**may** / **mayn't**) sit here.
- You (**mays** / **may**) leave now.
- You can (**eats** / **eat**) the snacks.
- You may (**sit** / **sits**) on the sofa.
- You (**cannt** / **can't**) use the computer.
- You (**may not touch** / **may touch not**) the vase.

B Complete the sentences with **can** or **can't**.

1. You can't 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.

A Complete the sentences.

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

B Match the questions with the correct answers.

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

C Correct the underlined words and rewrite the sentences.

- You use can my smartphone. → You can use my smartphone.
- You mayn't touch this painting. → _____
- You brings may your pet. → _____
- Can I borrow your scarf? → _____
- May uses your computer? → _____

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 _____ home.	_____ home?
You may sit here.	You _____ here.	_____ here?
You may watch TV.	You _____ TV.	_____ TV?