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## Mini Lesson 054 - Expressing Possibility with 'Might', 'May', 'Could'

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### Explanation:

When we want to express \*possibility\* in English, we often use the modal verbs **might**, **may**, and **could**. These modal verbs are used to talk about something that is not certain but is possible.

### Might:

- **Form:** \*might + base verb\*
- **Use:** To indicate that something is possible but not certain.
- Example: \*She might come to the party later.\*

### May:

- **Form:** \*may + base verb\*
- **Use:** To express a similar meaning to \*might\* but often considered slightly more formal or polite.
- Example: \*It may rain tomorrow.\*

### Could:

- **Form:** \*could + base verb\*
- **Use:** To suggest a possibility, but often used when considering alternatives or options.
- Example: \*We could go to the beach this weekend.\*

### Key Differences:

- **Might** and **may** are often interchangeable, though **may** is sometimes more formal.
- **Could** can also express possibility but is often used when discussing potential choices or abilities in certain situations.





### Exercises:

#### Section 1: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using \*might\*, \*may\*, or \*could\*.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ go to the store later, but I haven't decided yet.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ not be able to join us for dinner tonight.
3. It \_\_\_\_\_ snow this weekend, but we're not sure.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ visit our grandparents tomorrow if we have time.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ have forgotten about the meeting; I'll call him to check.
6. They \_\_\_\_\_ arrive late, so we should start without them.
7. You \_\_\_\_\_ want to try calling her again, just in case.

#### Section 2: Multiple Choice

Choose the correct modal verb to express possibility.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (might/may/could) go to the concert tonight if she finishes her work early.
  - a) might
  - b) may
  - c) could
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (might/may/could) be a little late to the meeting tomorrow morning.
  - a) might
  - b) may
  - c) could
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (might/may/could) take a vacation next month, but we haven't made any plans yet.
  - a) might
  - b) may
  - c) could





4. There \_\_\_\_\_ (might/may/could) be some traffic on the way home, so let's leave early.

- a) might
- b) may
- c) could

### Section 3: Sentence Rewriting

Rewrite the sentences using \*might\*, \*may\*, or \*could\*.

1. It is possible that we will go hiking tomorrow.
2. There's a chance that she will call you later.
3. Perhaps they will attend the event next week.
4. Maybe I will stop by your office later.
5. There's a possibility that they are still at the office.

### Section 4: Match the Sentence to the Context

Match each sentence with the appropriate context: a polite request, expressing uncertainty, suggesting a possibility.

1. You might want to bring a jacket; it could get cold.
2. Could I borrow your pen for a moment?
3. I might not be able to make it to the meeting on time.
4. They could come over later, but it depends on their schedule.
5. May I ask you a question about this assignment?





## Section 5: Dialogue Completion

Complete the conversation using \*might\*, \*may\*, or \*could\*.

A: Do you think it \_\_\_\_\_ rain today?

B: I'm not sure, but it \_\_\_\_\_ be a good idea to take an umbrella just in case.

A: Good point! I \_\_\_\_\_ bring my raincoat too.

B: Yeah, and we \_\_\_\_\_ leave early to avoid the worst of the weather.

A: Agreed! We \_\_\_\_\_ have to change our plans if the rain is too heavy.

### Answers:

#### Section 1:

1. I *might* go to the store later, but I haven't decided yet.
2. She *may* not be able to join us for dinner tonight.
3. It *could* snow this weekend, but we're not sure.
4. We *might* visit our grandparents tomorrow if we have time.
5. He *might* have forgotten about the meeting; I'll call him to check.
6. They *may* arrive late, so we should start without them.
7. You *might* want to try calling her again, just in case.

#### Section 2:

1. a) *might*
2. a) *might*
3. b) *may*
4. c) *could*





### Section 3:

1. We \*might go\* hiking tomorrow.
2. She \*may call\* you later.
3. They \*could attend\* the event next week.
4. I \*might stop\* by your office later.
5. They \*might still be\* at the office.

### Section 4:

1. \*Expressing uncertainty\*
2. \*A polite request\*
3. \*Expressing uncertainty\*
4. \*Suggesting a possibility\*
5. \*A polite request\*

### Section 5:

A: Do you think it \*might\* rain today?

B: I'm not sure, but it \*might\* be a good idea to take an umbrella just in case.

A: Good point! I \*may\* bring my raincoat too.

B: Yeah, and we \*could\* leave early to avoid the worst of the weather.

A: Agreed! We \*might\* have to change our plans if the rain is too heavy.

