

1 You use *may* or *might* to talk about something which is possible, but we are not sure of:

a in the present:

'Where is Sue?' 'She **might** be at the office.'

'Is Chris Sutton a football player?' 'He **might** be, I'm not sure.'

'I'm sure his wife's name is Elise.' 'You **may** be right.'

b in the future:

'What are you doing tonight, John?' 'I **might** go to the pub.'

'Is it going to rain tomorrow?' 'It **may**. I haven't seen the weather forecast.'

'Valerie **might** not come to school tomorrow. She's a bit ill today.'

2 Note that *may* and *might*, like all modal verbs, have only one form.

There is no *-s* for *he/she/it*:

I **might** go to the party tonight.

You **might** meet my mother if you come tomorrow.

He **might** be French. I don't know.

Ask that woman where the post office is. She **might** know.

It **might** rain later, so take an umbrella.

Be careful: you use an infinitive without *to* after *may/might*:

They **might be** angry if we are late. (not: *might to be*)

It **may be** true, I don't know. (not: *may to be true*)

3 The negative of *might* is *might not* or *mightn't*; the negative of *may* is *may not* (there is no short form):



4 There is no important difference in meaning between *may* and *might*, but *might* is a little less sure than *may*:

Take some paper and pens. They **might** be useful.

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A Read these sentences and decide if they are future (F) or present (P):

- 1 I might be able to visit you this Friday. _____
- 2 John may be back home now. Give him a ring. _____
- 3 You may know the answer to this question already. _____
- 4 They might be politicians, it's hard to say. _____
- 5 We might be going to France this year. _____
- 6 You may be wrong about her age. She doesn't look 50. _____
- 7 Try this cheese. You might like it! _____
- 8 Chinese may be the most important language next century. _____

B Change the sentences using may/might:

 e.g. Perhaps he is at the party. He might be at the party.

- 1 Perhaps the shops are closed now. _____
- 2 Perhaps they are on holiday. _____
- 3 Perhaps the weather will be good tomorrow. _____
- 4 Perhaps I will get married before I am 30. _____
- 5 Perhaps they will go to the disco tonight. _____
- 6 It's nice here. Perhaps I'll stay an extra week. _____
- 7 Perhaps we will go to see the new play at the theatre. _____
- 8 They've trained a lot. Perhaps they will win the match. _____

C What do you think? Write your opinions about the statements:

 e.g. It'll rain tomorrow. Yes, I think it will.
No, I don't think it will.
I'm not sure. It might.

- 1 The next leader of your country will be a woman. _____
- 2 You will go to the cinema this month. _____
- 3 You will receive a letter this week. _____
- 4 The price of your favourite drink will go up this year. _____
- 5 Someone will ask you a difficult question today. _____
- 6 You will eat in a restaurant next week. _____
- 7 There will be some very good news tomorrow. _____
- 8 You will go to a party this weekend. _____
- 9 The weather will be better next month than it is now. _____
- 10 You will listen to music this evening. _____