

**may**

I

[meɪ] v

1. праздновать Первое мая
2. собирать цветы весной

II

[meɪ] v (might)

I

*выражает*

1. (с простым инфинитивом без частицы to относится к настоящему и будущему времени, с перфектным инфинитивом - к прошедшему)

1) **предположение, вероятность, возможность** :

it may rain - возможно, будет дождь

he may not be hungry - возможно, он не голоден

he may miss the train - он может опоздать на поезд, он может и не успеть к поезду

she may have lost the bag - может быть, она потеряла сумку

I might have left the bag behind - может быть, я забыла сумку дома

he may come or he may not - может быть, он придёт, а может быть, и нет

how old may she be? - сколько ей, по-вашему, лет?, сколько ей может быть лет?

you may walk miles without seeing one - можно /вы можете/ пройти много миль и никого не встретить

it may be as much as five miles to Winchester - до Винчестера, пожалуй, не меньше пяти миль

how far may the village be from here? - далеко ли отсюда до деревни?, какое расстояние отсюда до деревни?

who might he be? - кто бы это мог быть? [см. тж. 1, 2])

he may have forgotten his promise - он, возможно, забыл своё обещание

he may have fallen ill - он, может быть, заболел

he may have lost his way - возможно, он заблудился

it might be about midnight when I came home - я думаю, было около полуночи, когда я вернулся домой

he might have arrived in time if he had run quicker - он мог бы поспеть вовремя, если бы (он) бежал быстрее

the team may well have won - вполне возможно, что команда и выиграла

2) **сомнение, неуверенность** :

who may you be? - кто вы такой?, что вы из себя представляете? [ср. тж. 1, 1])

it may be true - возможно /может быть/, это правда

it may not be true - может быть /возможно/, это неправда

it may have been true - может быть, это и так, возможно, что так и было

he may (not) arrive this afternoon - возможно, он (не) приедет сегодня днём

it may not change anything - может быть, это ничего не изменит

the handwriting may be his, but the signature certainly is not - почерк может быть и его, но подпись во всяком случае - нет

3) (тж. past) **укор** :

you might offer to help! - могли бы предложить свою помощь!

you might have helped - могли бы и помочь!

you might have asked my permission - можно было бы спросить моего согласия

you might have killed me! - ты меня так и убить мог!

you might at least say \*\*thank you\*\* - мог бы, по крайней мере, спасибо сказать

4) (тж. past) **предложение в вежливой форме** :

you might try writing to him - надо было бы попробовать написать ему

mightn't it be an idea to go and see him? - по-моему, неплохо было бы сходить навестить его

2. 1) **в вопросительных предложениях - просьбу** :

may I ask you a question? - можно (мне) задать вам вопрос?, можно мне спросить вас?

may I come in? - можно войти?

may he go? - можно ему уйти?

might I see it? - можно мне взглянуть?

may I trouble you to pass the salt? - пожалуйста, передайте мне соль

I may leave now, mayn't I? - мне сейчас можно уйти, да?

may they come and see you? - можно им прийти навестить вас?

2) **в утвердительных предложениях - разрешение**

I shall call tomorrow if I may - я зайду завтра, если можно /разрешите/

you may stay if you choose - можете остаться, если хотите

if I may say so - если можно так выразиться

I may say I find your question rather rude - должен признаться, что нахожу ваш вопрос довольно грубым /несколько неуместным/

you may not smoke here - здесь курить не нужно /не разрешается/

he asked if he might leave the book with you - он спросил, можно ли ему оставить у вас книгу

he was told that he might take the book with him - ему разрешили взять книгу с собой

you may think you're very clever, but ... - хотя ты и считаешь себя очень умным, но ...

3) **в утвердительных предложениях - способность, возможность** :

sit here, so that I may see your face more clearly - сядьте сюда, чтобы я ясно видел ваше лицо

4) **в восклицательных предложениях - пожелание** :

may you be happy [successful]! - да сопутствует вам счастье [успех]!

long may he live! - да будет его жизнь долгой!

may you live to see this happy day! - желаю вам дожить до этого счастливого дня!

may you live to repent it! - вы ещё об этом пожалеете!

may he rest in peace! - мир праху его!

may damnation take him! - будь он проклят!

### 3. *долженствование, обязательность (в тексте закона, статута и т. п.):*

no replacement may take place during a trial - во время процесса не должно производиться /не производится/ никаких замен

### 4. *в сочетаниях:*

as soon as may be - как можно скорее

may /might/ as well - можно вполне (*сделать что-л.*)

you may /might/ as well leave now as wait any longer - больше ждать не стоит, можешь уйти хоть сейчас

they might (just) as well not have gone - они вполне могли и не ходить

there's nothing to do, so I may as well go to bed - делать всё равно нечего, я могу (с таким же успехом) лечь спать

## III A

*как вспомогательный глагол употребляется для образования сослагательного наклонения*

### 1) *после слов, выражающих опасение, надежду и т. п.:*

I hope [hoped] he might succeed - надеюсь [я надеялся], что ему это удастся

she was afraid he might catch cold - она боялась, как бы он не простудился

they hope he may soon recover - они надеются, что он скоро поправится

the doctors fear that she may not live much longer - врачи боятся, что она долго не протянет

they fear he may lose his way - они боятся, как бы он не заблудился

### 2) *после союзов that, so that:*

so that he may know in time - с тем, чтобы он узнал вовремя

he wrote the address down (so) that he might not forget it - он записал адрес, чтобы не забыть его

### 3) *после whatever, however и т. п.:*

whatever he may say I shall not believe him - что бы он ни сказал, я ему не поверю

take whatever may be necessary - возьмите всё, что может понадобиться



be that as it may - а) будь что будет; б) как бы то ни было, как бы ни обстояло дело

that's as may be - а) ну и что ж!; б) вполне возможно, что так оно и есть

as well one might - поделом

he cried as well he might - он плакал и поделом /так ему и надо/

she blushed as well she might - она покраснела и неспроста

run as he might he could not overtake me - хоть он и бежал изо всех сил, он не мог догнать меня

try as he might, he could not get the window open - как он ни старался, он не смог открыть окно

## II

[meɪ] *n* *поэт., уст.*

дева

## may

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**may** [may mays] modal verb, noun BrE [meɪ] <sup>m</sup> NAmE [meɪ] <sup>m</sup>  
modal verb (negative **may not**, rare short form **mayn't** BrE ['meɪənt] <sup>m</sup>; NAmE ['meɪənt] <sup>m</sup>, pt **might** BrE [maɪt] <sup>m</sup>; NAmE [maɪt] <sup>m</sup>, negative **might not**, rare short form **mightn't** BrE ['maɪntnt] <sup>m</sup>; NAmE ['maɪntnt] <sup>m</sup>)

### 1. used to say that sth is possible

- That may or may not be true.
- He may have (= perhaps he has) missed his train.
- They **may well** win.
- There is a range of programs on the market which may be described as design aids.

### 2. used when admitting that sth is true before introducing another point, argument, etc.

- He may be a good father but he's a terrible husband.

### 3. (formal) used to ask for or give permission

- May I come in?
- You may come in if you wish.

### 4. (formal) used as a polite way of making a comment, asking a question, etc.

- You look lovely, if I may say so.
- May I ask why you took that decision?
- If I may just add one thing...

### 5. (formal) used to express wishes and hopes

- May she rest in peace.
- Business has been thriving in the past year. **Long may it continue** to do so.

### 6. (formal) used to say what the purpose of sth is

- There is a need for more resources so that all children may have a decent education.

### Word Origin:

v. Old English mæg Germanic 'have power' Dutch **mogen** German **mögen** ↑main ↑might 'strength'

n. late Middle English ↑May

### Grammar Point:

#### modal verbs

The modal verbs are can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will and would. Dare, need, have to and used to also

share some of the features of modal verbs.

Modal verbs have only one form. They have no **-ing** or **-ed** forms and do not add **-s** to the 3rd person singular form: ▪ He can speak three languages. ◇▪ She will try and visit tomorrow.

Modal verbs are followed by the infinitive of another verb without **to**. The exceptions are **ought to** and **used to**: ▪ You must find a job. ◇▪ You ought to stop smoking. ◇▪ I used to smoke but I gave up two years ago.

Questions are formed without **do/does** in the present, or **did** in the past: ▪ Can I invite Mary? ◇▪ Should I have invited Mary?

Negative sentences are formed with **not** or the short form **-n't** and do not use **do/does** or **did**.

You will find more help with how to use modal verbs at the dictionary entries for each verb.

### Which Word?:

#### can / may

Can and cannot (or can't) are the most common words used for asking for, giving or refusing permission: ▪ Can I borrow your calculator? ◇▪ You can come with us if you want to. ◇▪ You can't park your car there.

May (negative may not) is used as a polite and fairly formal way to ask for or give permission: ▪ May I borrow your newspaper? ◇▪ You may come if you wish. It is often used in official signs and rules: ▪ Visitors may use the swimming pool between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. ◇▪ Students may not use the college car park. The form **mayn't** is hardly ever used in modern English.

Idiom: ↑that as it may

### noun uncountable

the white or pink flowers of the ↑hawthorn

### Word Origin:

v. Old English mæg Germanic 'have power' Dutch **mogen** German **mögen** ↑main ↑might 'strength'

n. late Middle English ↑May

## may

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

1. **may**<sup>1</sup> **S1 W1** /meɪ/ BrE " AmE " modal verb

[Language: Old English; Origin: mæg]

**1. POSSIBILITY** if something may happen or may be true, there is a possibility that it will happen or be true but this is not certain

#### SYN might:

- I may be late, so don't wait for me.
- Some chemicals may cause environmental damage.
- There may not be enough money to pay for the repairs.
- Well, I may have been wrong.
- They may have called while you were out.
- It may be that Minoan ships were built and repaired here.
- Your job may well involve some travelling (=it is fairly likely).

**2. POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING** if something may be done, completed etc in a particular way, that is how it is possible to do it

#### SYN can:

- The problem may be solved in a number of different ways.

#### 3. ALLOWED

**a) used to say that someone is allowed to do something SYN can:**

- Thank you. You may go now.
- There is a set of rules to show what members may and may not do.
- You may sit down or stand, just as you wish.
- No one may own more than 10% of the shares.

**b) may I/we ...? spoken formal** used to ask politely for permission to do something:

- May I come in and wait?
- May we use your office for a few minutes?

**4. IN POLITE EXPRESSIONS spoken formal** used to say, ask, or suggest something in a polite way:

- All these things, if I may say so, are entirely irrelevant.
- Who, may I ask, is Wotherspoon?
- May I suggest that you consider the matter further before taking any action.

**5. ALTHOUGH** used to say that even though one thing is true, something else which seems very different is also true:

- I may be slow, but at least I don't make stupid mistakes.
- Although this may sound like a simple process, great care is needed.
- Strange as it may seem, I always felt I belonged here.

**6. may as well spoken** used to suggest that someone should do something, because there is no good reason to do anything else

#### SYN might as well:

- If there's nothing more to do, we may as well go to bed.
- You may as well tell us now – we'll find out sooner or later.

**7. may somebody/something do something formal** used to express a wish or hope:

- We pray for those who died – may they rest in peace.
- It is a fine tradition and long may it continue!

**8. PURPOSE formal** used after 'so that' or 'in order that' to say that someone does something in order to make something else possible:

- The hero sacrifices his life so that his friend may live.

9. **be that as it may** *formal* in spite of what you have just mentioned:

Perhaps there isn't one single system that will work for everyone. Be that as it may, we all need order in our lives.

10. **may well** used to say that there is a good reason for a reaction, question, or feeling:

'What's all the noise?' 'You may well ask.'

• • •

## GRAMMAR

**May** is not used in questions about possible events or situations. Use **might** instead:

- Might there be problems?

### **may have, might have**

To say that it is possible that something happened, you can use **may have** or **might have**:

- She may have been executed.
- He might have been misquoted.

If something was possible, but did not in fact happen, you can use **might have**, but not **may have**:

- Had I been more perceptive, I might have noticed that she was not happy.

II. **may**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>2</sup> *AmE* <sup>2</sup> *noun* [uncountable] *British English*

the white or pink flowers of the ↑*hawthorn*

## may

Freakuency Pack

12500 **88**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **102**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **1k** MAY <sup>378271</sup>

may <sup>378271</sup>

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

96117 **116**<sup>339243</sup> *vm*

19305 **1160**<sup>35835</sup> *npm1*

1661 **10017**<sup>3071</sup> *np1*

65 **92588**<sup>68</sup> *jj*

38 **123556**<sup>39</sup> *nn1*

10 **247592**<sup>11</sup> *rr*

4 **443548**<sup>4</sup> *nnu*