

MAY, MIGHT & COULD

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Discuss uncertain possibilities without claiming certainty.

1. READ: A missing parcel

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Nina: The tracking says delivered, but there's nothing outside.

Ash: It **might be** with a neighbour. Did you check the note?

Nina: There isn't one. The driver **may have** the wrong address on the system.

Ash: Or it **could be** in the parcel locker downstairs.

Nina: Good idea. I'll look there first.

Ash: I **might not be** here when you get back. Text me if you find it.

2. GRAMMAR: Present and future possibility

Use may, might or could + base verb for a present or future possibility.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Possible	may / might / could + verb	It might be downstairs.
Possibly not	may not / might not + verb	I might not be here.
No verb change	modal + base verb	She may have the address.

These forms often overlap; don't assign fixed percentages to them.

Could: It could rain later. **Might not:** She might not come.

Could not often means inability or impossibility, not simply possibly not.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. It might be / is with Jo.
2. She may has / have the parcel.
3. We could get / getting it tomorrow.
4. He might not come / comes tonight.
5. It may / may to rain later.
6. They could are / be at the office.
7. I might / might to call the driver.
8. Jo may knows / know where it is.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Looking for a parcel

Use the modal in brackets with the base form of the verb.

1. The parcel _____ (might / be) in the locker.
2. The driver _____ (may / know) where it is.
3. We _____ (could / ask) the neighbours.
4. Jo _____ (might / not / be) at home yet.
5. It _____ (may / arrive) later today.
6. I _____ (might / not / have) time to wait.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite as a possibility using the modal given.

Example: Perhaps it's upstairs. (might) **It might be upstairs.**

1. Perhaps the shop is open. (may) _____
2. Perhaps she knows the answer. (could) _____

3-4: Rewrite as a negative possibility. Example: Perhaps he won't come. (may) **He may not come.**

3. Perhaps Jo isn't free. (might) _____
4. Perhaps we won't finish today. (may) _____

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three uncertain plans or explanations. Include one negative possibility.

Example: **I might visit Jo. It could rain. My brother may not be free.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Discuss three possible reasons a friend is late. Avoid presenting guesses as facts.

Then discuss uncertain plans for your next free day.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A missing parcel

Sample target language from the conversation:

Ash: It **might be** with a neighbour. Did you check the note?

Nina: There isn't one. The driver **may have** the wrong address on the system.

Ash: Or it **could be** in the parcel locker downstairs.

Ash: I **might not be** here when you get back. Text me if you find it.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1. be | 2. have |
| 3. get | 4. come |
| 5. may | 6. be |
| 7. might | 8. know |

B. COMPLETE: Looking for a parcel

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. might be | 2. may know |
| 3. could ask | 4. might not be |
| 5. may arrive | 6. might not have |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. The shop may be open.
2. She could know the answer.
3. Jo might not be free.
4. We may not finish today.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: She might be on a delayed bus. Her phone could be out of battery. She may not have our new address.

Teacher note: All three affirmative modals can be acceptable where context supports possibility. This lesson does not introduce past modal + have + participle.