

## MAY THE 4<sup>th</sup> BE WITH YOU!

When can we use “MAY”? What’s your idea?

- Possibility of the future or low probability of the current event

*He may know the answer [it is possible but not high likely].*

*The dog may stay silent when we leave him alone at home.*

- Asking for and giving permission

*May I join you?*

*You may go now.*

- Wishes

*May you be blessed.*

*May you be living in interesting times.*

- Accepting

*I may go there if you want me to do it.*

- Guess about the past

*I haven't received your letter. It may have got lost in the post.*

## The Simple Trick to Maybe vs. May Be

If you can replace it with “potentially,” use **maybe**. It’s an adverb.

If you can replace it with “might be” or “could be” use **may be**. It’s a verb.

**Maybe** Thomas will be interested in going swing dancing next week.

Thomas **may be** interested in going swing dancing tonight.

*Maybe we should head back.*

*Heading back may be the best idea.*

**MAY vs CAN vs COULD vs MIGHT**

<b>CAN</b>	<b>COULD</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>MIGHT</b>	
used only about the present	used about the past, the present and the future	used about the present and the future	used about the future or the past	
HIGHT	MODERATE	LOW	VERY LOW	<b>POSSIBILITY</b>
LOW	OPTIMAL	MODERATE	HIGH	<b>FORMALITY</b>
CAN'T	COULDN'T	MAY NOT	MIGHT NOT	<b>NEGATIVE</b>
<b>CAN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>COULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>MAY HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>MIGHT HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	
-	LOST OPPORTUNITY (it could happen but it didn't, I lost the chance)	GUESS(e.g. I don't remember exactly)	GUESS WITH SOME DOUBT AND CONSIDERING DIFFERENT POSSIBILITES	<b>PERFECT</b>
IT WASN'T POSSIBLE ACCORDING TO THE LOGIC OR YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN IT	NOT POSSIBLE AT ALL	As above but negative	GUESS ABOUT AN ALTERNATIVE PAST WITH SOME DOUBT	<b>PERFECT NEGATIVE</b>

**Ex.1 Compare the sentences below.**

It can happen.

It could happen.

It can't happen.

It could have happened.

It couldn't have happened.

It can't have happened.

It may happen.

It may have happened.

It might happen.

It might have happened.

## READING

This year spring is not very hasty in Poland, but holidays will come regardless of the weather in the next few days. If you are a foreigner, prepare yourself for days filled with fun with your Polish friends or colleagues, celebrating... what exactly?

### May 1<sup>st</sup>

Having a day off on May 1<sup>st</sup> probably makes sense to most foreigners, as it is a widely-recognised international holiday. In many countries it is known as Labour Day and refers to the labour movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Poland, it is sometimes seen as a relic of the past, from the times when the communist party was still in charge. Nevertheless, not many people complain about having a day off – in fact, usually it is just the beginning of a long weekend!

### May 2<sup>nd</sup>

This day is squeezed in-between its two bigger brothers and has always been troublesome. It is not an official bank holiday, although it is commonly referred to as the Flag Day and all Poles try to exhibit the national flag in front of their houses throughout the entire May weekend. Many people have to work on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, unless they are employed in state-owned branches of business, such as education. In reality, however, most people take May 2<sup>nd</sup> as a day off, even if their company has not included it in this form in the agenda. Employers also realise that their employees are not at their best on this day, so some of them even prefer to shut down the company for one day.

### May 3<sup>rd</sup>

The most history-loaded of the three, this is definitely a day when you are free from work, as it is Polish Constitution Day. It commemorates the ratification of the Polish constitution as the first one in the whole of Europe. Poles are very proud of their great democratic achievement, which calls for parades and a few lofty speeches from national leaders. If you want to avoid crowds and traffic congestion, go for a stroll in the nearest park and visit a local restaurant. Rent a city bike to explore places on the other side of your town.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Do you believe that the Labour Day is a relic of the past or is it an important holiday nowadays? Why?
2. Do you put up the flag at the May break? What do you think about that tradition?
3. What's your approach to the Flag Day?
4. How do you celebrate May break? Is this year different than the previous ones?
5. Do people in Poland really care about the Constitution Day? Is it crucial to know a bit of the history?

## MAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup>

**VIDEO:** [What is... Star Wars Day? May The 4th Explained - YouTube](#)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why is May the 4<sup>th</sup> linked with Star Wars? What's the connotation?
2. What do the fans do on that day?
3. Where does the phrase "may the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you" come from?
4. What's the pun and what's your impression about that phenomenon? Are puns important in language? When could they be used?
5. How is May the 4<sup>th</sup> associated with Margaret Thatcher?
6. What happened on 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 in Canada?
7. How can the fans of Star Wars celebrate the Day? What do they usually do?

## Vocabulary

Discuss the meaning of the words below and make a sentence with each of them.

Fandom [n.]

Hasty [adj.]

Squeezed in [adj.]

State-owned [adj.]

To commemorate [v.]

Congestion [n.]