

## 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**

MODALS + BARE INFINITIVE

<b>CAN</b>	<b>COULD</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>MIGHT</b>	
USE ONLY ABOUT THE PRESENT	USE ABOUT THE PRESENT, THE PAST AND THE FUTURE	USE MAINLY ABOUT FUTURE, ALSO ABOUT THE PRESENT	USED OBLY ABOUT THE FUTURE AND THE PAST	usage
I can go	I could go	I may go	I might go	example
HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	VERY LOW	possibility
LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	formality
CANNOT → CAN'T	COULD NOT → COULDN'T	MAY NOT	MIGHT NOT	negative

PERFECT MODALS → MODALS OF DEDUCTION AND PAST POSSIBILITY

<b>CAN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>COULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>COULDN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>MAY HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>MIGHT HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	
I can't have gone	I could have gone	I couldn't have gone	I may have gone	I might have gone	example
Not possible according to the logic of events or you don't believe it	Possible but didn't happen [lost chance]	Not possible at all	Possible events of the past, but there's no proof/ no recollection of a such event	Guess with some doubts (considering different possibilities)	meaning

I can go → It is highly possible that I go

I can't go → I am not able or not allowed to go

I can't have gone → It was impossible, because it sounds strange or unlikely / I am sure it didn't happen.

I could go → I have/had/will have a chance to go

I couldn't go → I don't/didn't/won't have a chance to go

I could have gone → I had a chance to go, but I didn't use it.

I couldn't have gone → I didn't have a chance because for example I was doing something else.

I may go → There's a chance that it will happen

I may have gone → Maybe it has happened, but I don't know for sure or I don't remember

I might go → There's a little chance that it will/would happen

I might have gone → I can agree that maybe I went there, but I have some doubts.

**Now, according to the examples given below, find and explain the differences among 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.

**Make a short story. Tell about:**

- Possibilities that you had in the past but you didn't take your chances
- Something that someone states about you, but you know that it was impossible to have happened,
- Predictions about the future

## 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 1st

Having a day off on May 1st 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 20th 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 2nd

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 2nd, unless they are employed in state-owned branches of business, such as education. In reality, however, most people take May 2nd 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 3rd

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 4TH VIDEO:**

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

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Why is may the 4th linked with Star Wars? What's the connotation?
2. What do the fans do on that day?
3. Where does the phrase "may the 4th 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 4th associated with Margaret Thatcher?
6. What happened on 4 th 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.]