



Lesson21

The Use of May and Might

I. RULES AND EXAMPLES

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e Study the structure:

		be (true / in his office etc.)
	may not	be (doing / working / having etc.)
I /you/he (etc.)	might	know / work / want etc.

2. For the past we use may have (done) or might have (done):

Examples:

- A: I wonder why Kate didn't answer the phone.
B: She may have been sleep. (= perhaps she was asleep)
- A: I can't find my bag anywhere.
B: You might have left it in the shop. (= perhaps you left it in the shop)
- A: I was surprised that Kate wasn't at the meeting yesterday.
B: She might not have known about it. (= perhaps she didn't know)
- A: I wonder why David was in such a bad mood yesterday.

B: He may not have been feeling well. (= perhaps he wasn't feeling well)

Study the structure:

I /you/he (etc.)	may (not) have	been (asleep / at home etc.)
	Might	been (doing / working / feeling etc.)
		known / had / wanted / left etc.

3. Could is similar to may and might:

Example:

1. It's a strange story, but it could be true. (= it may/might be true)
 2. You could have left your bag in the shop. (= you may/might have left it)
- But couldn't (negative) is different from may not and might not.

Compare:

1. Sarah couldn't have got my message. Otherwise she would have replied. (= it is not possible that she got my message)

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Start here:

1. Perhaps Helen is busy.
2. Perhaps she is working.
3. Perhaps she wants to be alone.
4. Perhaps she was ill yesterday.
5. Perhaps she went home early.
6. Perhaps she had to go home early.
7. Perhaps she was working yesterday.

In sentences 8-10 use might not.

8. Perhaps she doesn't want to see me.
9. Perhaps she isn't working today.
10. Perhaps she wasn't feeling well yesterday.

Read the situation and make sentences from the words in brackets. Use might.

Example: I can't find Jeff anywhere. I wonder where he is.

a. (he / go / shopping) b. (he / play / tennis)

Answer : a. He might have gone shopping

b. He might be playing tennis.

Start here:

1. I'm looking for Sarah. Do you know where she is?

a. (she / watch / TV / in her room) _____.

b. (she / go / out) _____.

3. I can't find my umbrella. Have you seen it?

a. (it / be / in the car) _____.

b. (you / leave / in the restaurant last night) _____.

4. Why didn't Dave answer the doorbell? I'm sure he was at home at the time.

a. (he / go / to bed early) _____.

b. (he / not / hear / the doorbell) _____.

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B: That's possible. _____.

Answer : She might not have known about it.

Start here:

1. A: I wonder why they never replied to our letter. Do you think they received it?

B: Maybe not. They _____.

2. A: I wonder how the fire started. Was it an accident?

B: No, the police say it _____.

3. A: Mike says he needs to see you. He tried to find you yesterday.

B: Well, he _____ very hard. I was in my office all day.

4. A: The man you spoke to – are you sure he was American?

B: No, I'm not sure. He _____.

III. WRITING

Write sentences with **might**.

Example: (it's possible that I'll go to the cinema)

Answer : I might go to the cinema.

Start here:

1. (it's possible that I'll see you tomorrow)
_____.
2. (it's possible that Ann will forget to phone)
_____.
3. (it's possible that it will snow today) _____.
4. (it's possible that I'll be late tonight) _____.

Write sentences with **might not**.

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2. Tell me how to dump a boyfriend/girlfriend.

3. Tell how to get from your house to the supermarket



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