

A

We use **may** and **might** to talk about possible actions or happenings in the future:

- ☐ I haven't decided where to go on holiday. I **may go** to Ireland. (= perhaps I will go there)
- ☐ Take an umbrella with you. It **might rain** later. (= perhaps it will rain)
- ☐ The bus isn't always on time. We **might have** to wait a few minutes.
(= perhaps we will have to wait)

The negative forms are **may not** and **might not (mightn't)**:

- ☐ Amy **may not go** out tonight. She isn't feeling well. (= perhaps she will not go out)
- ☐ There **might not be** enough time to discuss everything at the meeting.
(= perhaps there will not be enough time)

Compare:

- ☐ I'm **going** to buy a car. (for sure)
- ☐ I **may buy** a car. or I **might buy** a car. (possible)

B

Usually you can use **may** or **might**. So you can say:

- ☐ I **may go** to Ireland. or I **might go** to Ireland.
- ☐ Jane **might be** able to help you. or Jane **may be** able to help you.

But we use **might (not may)** when the situation is *not real*:

- ☐ If they paid me better, I **might** work harder. (*not* I may work)

This situation (**If they paid** me better) is not real. They do *not* pay me well, so I'm not going to work harder.

C

Compare **may/might be -ing** and **will be -ing**:

- ☐ Don't phone at 8.30. I'll **be watching** the football on TV.
- ☐ Don't phone at 8.30. I **might be watching** the football on TV. (= perhaps I'll be watching it)

We also use **may/might be -ing** for possible plans. Compare:

- ☐ I'm **going** to Ireland soon. (for sure)
- ☐ I **might be going** (or I **may be going**) to Ireland soon. (possible)

D

might as well

Helen and Clare have just missed the bus.
The buses run every hour.

What shall we do? Shall we walk?

We **might as well**. It's a nice day and I don't want to wait here for an hour.

We **might as well** do something = we should do it because there is no better alternative.
There is no reason not to do it.

You can also use **may as well**.



- ☐ A: What time are you going out?
B: Well, I'm ready, so I **might as well go** now. or ... I **may as well go** now.
- ☐ Buses are so expensive these days, you **might as well get** a taxi.
(= taxis are as good, no more expensive than buses)

Exercises

30.1 Which alternative makes sense?

- A: Where are you going for your holidays?
B: I haven't decided yet. I might go / ~~I'm going~~ to Ireland. (I might go makes sense)
- A: Have you decided what sort of car you want to buy?
B: Yes, I might get / I'm going to get a sports car.
- A: When is Tom coming to see us?
B: He hasn't said yet. He might come / He's coming on Sunday.
- A: Where are you going to put that picture?
B: I don't know yet. I might hang / I'm going to hang it in the bedroom.
- A: What's Tanya going to do when she leaves school? Does she know yet?
B: Yes, she's decided. She might go / She's going to university.
- A: Do you have plans for the weekend?
B: Nothing fixed. I might go away / I'm going away.

30.2 Complete the sentences using **might** + a verb from the box:

- Take an umbrella with you when you go out. It might rain later.
- Don't make too much noise. You the baby.
- Be careful with your coffee. You it.
- Don't forget your phone. You it.
- It's better if we don't talk so loud. Somebody us.
- Be careful. This footpath is icy. You

hear
need
~~rain~~
slip
spill
wake

30.3 Complete the sentences. Use **might be able to** or **might have to** + one of these verbs:

fix ~~help~~ leave meet pay wait

- Tell me about your problem. I might be able to help you.
- I can come to the meeting, but I before the end.
- I'm not free this evening, but I you tomorrow evening.
- I'm not sure whether this car park is free or not. We
- There's a long queue. We a long time.
- 'I've got a problem with my bike.' 'Let me have a look. I it.'

30.4 Write sentences with **might not**.

- Lisa's not feeling very well. I'm not sure that she will go to the party.
Lisa might not come to the party.
- I haven't seen him for a long time. I don't know if I will recognise him or not.
I might him.
- We want to go to the game, but I don't know whether we'll be able to get tickets.
We for the game.
- I said I'd do the shopping, but it's possible I won't have time.
I to do the shopping.
- I've been invited to the wedding, but I'm not sure that I'll be able to go.
I

30.5 Read the situations and write sentences with **might as well**.

- You and a friend have just missed the bus. The buses run every hour.
You say: We'll have to wait an hour for the next bus. We might as well walk.
- Your computer doesn't work any more. It will cost a lot to repair.
You say: It's not worth repairing. I a new one.
- You've painted the kitchen. You still have a lot of paint, so why not paint the bathroom too?
You say: I too. There's plenty of paint left.
- You and a friend are at home. You're bored. There's a film on TV starting in a few minutes.
You say: We it. There's nothing else to do.