

Modal Verb – May

The modal verb **may** can be used to express both **possibility** and also **permission**.

possibility - something being possible

*I **may** drive to London this weekend.*

*The doctor **may** give you a prescription.*

In these examples the modal verb **may** is positioned before the verbs **drive** and **give** and it indicates a **possibility**. I **may** drive to London, then again I might not! I am merely saying that it is possible. Likewise, the doctor **may** give you a prescription – but then again he might not!

permission - something being allowed

*You **may** sit on the grass.*

*You **may** use your mobile phone in the waiting room.*

In these examples the modal verb **may** is used to indicate **permission**.

If I say that you **may** sit on the grass, I am giving you **permission** to do so or I am informing you that it is allowed.

If you read a notice that tells you that you **may** use your mobile phone in the waiting room, it is the same as saying that you have **permission** to use the mobile phone in that room.