



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 29 – May and might 1

tienganh

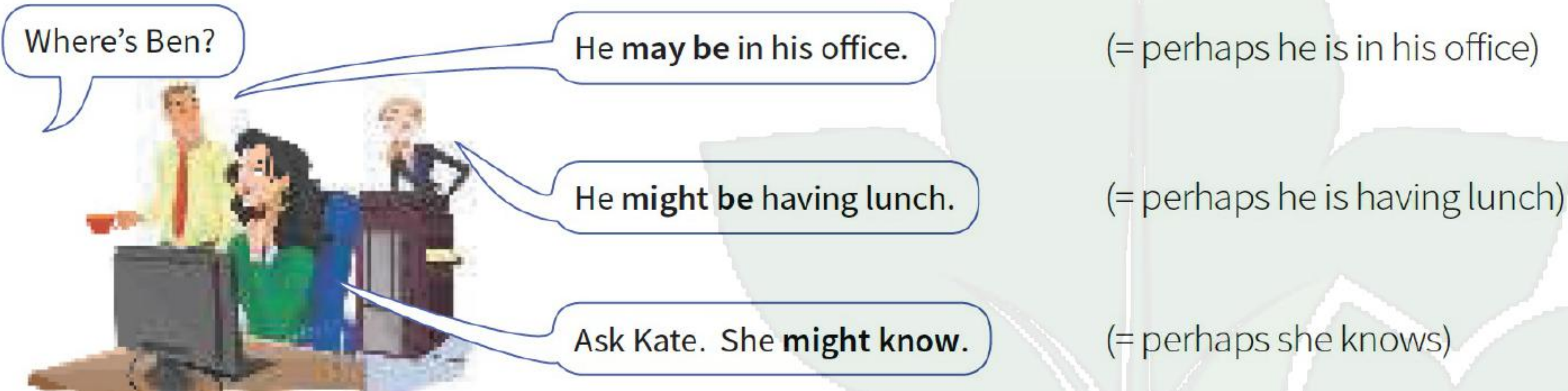


May and might 1

MAY AND MIGHT - PRESENT

A

You are looking for Ben. Nobody is sure where he is, but you get some suggestions.



Where's Ben?

He **may be** in his office. (= perhaps he is in his office)

He **might be** having lunch. (= perhaps he is having lunch)

Ask Kate. She **might know**. (= perhaps she knows)

you/she/they (etc.)	may might	(not)	be (true / in his office etc.) be -ing (doing / working / having etc.) know / work / want etc.
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Note the difference between **may be** (2 words) and **maybe** (1 word):

- It **may be** true. (may + verb)
- 'Is it true?' '**Maybe**. I'm not sure.' (maybe = it's possible, perhaps)

❖ We use **may** or **might** to say that something is possible. You can use **may** or **might**:

- EX1: It **may be** true. or It **might be** true. (= perhaps it is true)
- EX2: She **might know**. or She **may know**.

❖ The negative forms are **may not** and **might not**:

- EX3: It **may not be** true. (= perhaps it isn't true)
- EX4: She **might not know**. (= perhaps she doesn't know)

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MAY HAVE AND MIGHT HAVE - PAST

B

❖ For the past we use **may have ...** or **might have ...** :

▪ EX5: A: I wonder why Kate didn't answer her phone.

B: She **may have been** asleep. (= perhaps she was asleep)

▪ EX6: A: I can't find my phone anywhere.

B: You **might have left** it at work. (= perhaps you left it at work)

▪ EX7: A: Why wasn't Amy at the meeting yesterday?

B: She **might not have known** about it. (= perhaps she didn't know)

▪ EX8: 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)

you/she/they (etc.)	may might	(not) have	been (asleep / at home etc.) been -ing (doing / working / feeling etc.) known / had / wanted / left etc.
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May and might 1

COULD, MAY AND MIGHT

C

❖ **could** is similar to **may** and **might**:

- EX9: It's a strange story, but it **could be** true. (= it is possible that it's true)
- EX10: You **could have left** your phone at work. (= it's possible that you left it there)

❖ **But couldn't (negative) is different from may not and might not. Compare:**

- EX11: Sarah **couldn't have received** my message. Otherwise she would have replied.
(= it is not possible that she got my message)
- EX12: Why hasn't Sarah replied to my message? I suppose she **might not have received** it.
(= it's possible that she didn't receive it – perhaps she did, perhaps she didn't)

May and might 1



BÀI TẬP NHANH

Select the option which best completes the sentences below:

A: I was surprised Amy wasn't at the meeting. Perhaps she didn't know about it.

B: Maybe. She _____ about it.

- A. might not have known
- B. might not know
- C. may not know
- D. could not know

May and might 1

TÓM TẮT

1. **May** và **might** đều chỉ một hành động / sự việc gì đó "có thể" xảy ra – *Where's Ben? He **may be** in his office.*
2. Để nói về các tình huống trong quá khứ, chúng ta dùng "**may have**", "**might have**" - *She **may have been** asleep.*
3. Ở thể khẳng định, **could** có nghĩa giống **may** và **might**. Nhưng ở thể phủ định, **couldn't** chỉ một việc gì đó đã không thể xảy ra, còn **may not** và **might not** có nghĩa việc đó có thể đã xảy ra hoặc không xảy ra - *Why hasn't Sarah replied to my message? I suppose she **might not have** received it.*