

RULES OF THUMB



MAY

Making affirmative statements with MAY

Look at this sentence from the situation *Late-Night Weather Forecast*.

WEATHERMAN: Bridges and overpasses **may** become icy.

Now look at this chart.

I You He She It We You They	may be sick.
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- Don't add an s to **may** for *he, she* and *it*.
- The verb that comes after **may** does not take *to*.

Making negative statements with MAY

Now take a look at how we make a negative statement using **may**.

They **may** let you in. → AFFIRMATIVE

They **may not** let you in. → NEGATIVE



- **May** is a special verb. It does not take *do, does* or *did* in the negative form.
- We do not contract **may** and *not*.

Asking questions with MAY

Look at this sentence based on the situation *Late-Night Weather Forecast*.

NEWSCASTER: Do you think the storm **may** be here by tomorrow?

If we want to know if something may happen, we have to use an expression like *Do you think . . . ?* or *Do you suppose . . . ?* to ask the question.

Take a look at this situation.

You're trying to fix the toilet, but you are afraid you **may** be doing it wrong.

You may ask:

Do you think I **may** be doing it wrong?

Finally, for your amusement, read this example with **may** and *never*.



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* That ought to do it. = That will probably produce the expected result.