

## 6: Modals of Probability Exercise

1. Explain that when you called, it was probably that Julie was sleeping. Use 'might'.  
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2. Say that it's probable that the manager will not take the train next week. Use 'might' and the continuous infinitive to avoid ambiguity.  
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3. Say that by this time next week, we it's probable that we'll have finished all the work. Use 'may'.  
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4. Say that it's probable that Lucy isn't sleeping now. Use 'may'.  
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5. Say that it's probable that Lucy is at the library. Use 'might'.  
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6. Say it's probable that the boss was writing an email during the meeting. Use 'may'.  
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7. Say that thankfully Julie wasn't at home when the roof fell in – it's probable that she would have been hurt. Use 'could'.  
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8. Say it's probable that Julie is studying at the library. Use 'could'.  
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9. Say it's probable that John is on his way. Use 'could'.  
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10. Say that it's probable Amanda will be working at the weekend. Use 'could'.  
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11. Say it's probable that Luke will be at the meeting tomorrow. Use 'may'.

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12. Explain that by the end of the holiday, it's probable that the children will have finished their homework. Use 'could'.

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13. Say that it was probable that the children were playing outside when it started to rain. Use 'could'.

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14. Say that it's probable that Lucy didn't go to the gym yesterday. Use 'might'.

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15. Say that it's probable that the students won't be coming to the party. Use 'may'.

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16. Ask if it's probable that he is working. Use 'could'.

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17. Say that it's strongly probable that she's at the park. Use 'may'.

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18. Ask someone why he swam across that river. Say that it was hypothetically probable that he wouldn't reach the other side. Use 'might'.

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19. Say that it's strongly probable that Jim will come later. Use 'may'.

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20. That that it's probable that the children are in the kitchen. Use 'may'.

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21. Say that it's probable that the teacher is having lunch. Use 'may'.

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22. Say that it's probable that Julie will eat later. Use 'might'.

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23. Say that it's probable that the children are watching TV. Use 'might'.

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24. Say that it's probable that the children have gone to bed already. Use 'could'.

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25. Say that we were lucky it didn't rain – it was probable that we would have got soaked. Use 'might'.

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26. Say it's probable that they are not at home. Use 'might'.

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27. Say it's probable that she isn't on the train. Use 'may'.

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28. Say that by the time you read this, it's probable that I will have quit my job. Use 'might'.

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29. Say that it's probable that the teachers have marked the essays. Use 'might'.

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30. Say that it's probable that Amanda has done the homework already. Use 'may'.

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31. Ask if it's probable that she's at work. Use 'could'.

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32. Say that it's probable that Sacha is not working. Use 'might'.

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33. Say that luckily, you went home early. Otherwise it's probable that you would have missed the plane. Use 'might'.

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## Answers to Modals of Probability Exercise

1. When I called, Julie might have been sleeping.
2. The manager might not be taking the train next week.
3. By this time next week, we may have finished all the work.
4. Lucy may not be sleeping now.
5. Lucy might be at the library.
6. The boss may have been writing an email during the meeting.
7. Thankfully Julie wasn't at home when the roof fell in – she could have been hurt.
8. Julie could be studying at the library.
9. John could be on his way.
10. Amanda could be working at the weekend.
11. Luke may be at the meeting tomorrow.
12. By the end of the holiday, the children could have finished their homework.
13. The children could have been playing outside when it started to rain.
14. Lucy might not have gone to the gym yesterday.
15. The students may not be coming to the party.
16. Could he be working?
17. She may well be at the park.
18. Why did you swim across that river? You might not have reached the other side!
19. Jim may well come later.
20. The children may be in the kitchen.
21. The teacher may be having lunch.
22. Julie might eat later.
23. The children might be watching TV.
24. The children could have gone to bed already.
25. We were lucky it didn't rain – we might have got soaked!
26. They might not be at home.
27. She may not be on the train.
28. By the time you read this, I might have quit my job.
29. The teachers might have marked the essays.
30. Amanda may have done the homework already.
31. Could she be at work?
32. Sacha might not be working.
33. Luckily, I went home early. Otherwise I might have missed the plane.