





Chapter- 12




# MAY AND CAN

## STUDY NOTES

May and Can are used to ask for permission.

May	
<p>We use may when we want to be very polite.</p>	
<p>When we want to take permission from a person we do not know very well or are not close to i.e, teachers, the principal, strangers etc.</p>	
<p>Example</p>	

Can	
<p>We use can when we do not need to be very polite.</p>	

<p>When we want to take permission from people, we are close to i.e., parents, siblings, friends etc.</p>	 An illustration of a family of four (mother, father, and two children) standing in front of a red and white striped sweets stand. The stand has a sign that says 'SWEETS' and is filled with various candies. A woman in a blue uniform is serving them.
<p>Example</p> <p>Can I share your book please?</p>  An illustration of two young girls sitting on a blue bench outdoors. They are both holding and looking at a pink book together. The girl on the left is wearing a red dress and yellow boots, and the girl on the right is wearing a purple dress and red shoes.	 An illustration of a man in a pink shirt sitting at a desk, looking frustrated. A speech bubble next to him says 'Can I open the window, please?'. There are some papers and a pen on the desk. A window is visible in the background.

**ANSWER KEY**

**1. Rewrite these sentences as requests for permission, using may or can.**

a) I want to play cricket instead of tennis today.

May I play cricket instead of tennis today?

b) I want to visit my aunt tomorrow.

Can I visit my aunt tomorrow?

c) I want something to eat.

Can I eat something?

d) I want to leave the tuition class early.

May I leave the tuition class early?



e) I want to wear the blue dress.

I want to wear the blue dress.

**2. Look at the questions given below. Each one is used to ask for permission. Which of these can you ask your friend and which can you ask your teacher?**

- a) May I go home? **Teacher**
- b) Can I use your dictionary? **Friend**
- c) May I sit down? **Teacher**
- d) Can I ride your bicycle? **Friend**
- e) May I say something? **Teacher**

**3. The sentences given below have the words can or may. Tick the sentences in which they have been used to ask for permission.**

- a) He can speak Spanish.
- b) Can I use your glue? ✓
- c) It may rain today.
- d) Can you close the door? ✓
- e) Can I eat this? ✓

**4. Complete the following sentences with can or may.**

- a) Mom, can I take a bath later?
- b) Ma'am, may I leave early today?
- c) Sudha, can I see your skateboard?
- d) Sir, may I keep my bag here?
- e) Noori, can I wear your shoes?

**5. Find the errors in the questions given below and correct them.**

- a) Diana: Sara, ~~may~~ I see your pencil case?

**can** Sara: Yes, you can.

b) Amit: Ma'am, ~~can~~ I keep this umbrella inside the classroom? **may**

Teacher: No, Amit. The umbrella is wet. Keep it outside the classroom.

c) Swara: Mom, may I watch a cartoon show after I finish my homework? **can**

Mother: Yes, you can.

d) Tanu: Ritu, ~~may~~ I drink water from your bottle? **can**

Ritu: Yeah, sure.

e) Sid: Sir, can I switch on the computer? **may**

Teacher: Yes, switch it on.

