






Chapter- 12

MAY AND CAN

STUDY NOTES

May and Can are used to ask for permission.

May	
<p>When we may when 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> <p><i>May I come in, please?</i></p> 	

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

When we want to take permission from people, we are close to i.e., parents, siblings, friends etc.



Example

Can I share your book please?



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.

