



You'll have digestive problems in the coming year. You **should** have stomachache sometimes. You **may** also have no appetite. Seeing the doctor **might** help you, but this **won't** be the best way. Come and see me from time to time. I'll help you overcome all the unlucky things!

Master Wong, what **will** my coming year be like?



## Usage

We use the modal verbs *will*, *should*, *may*, *might* and *could* to talk about certainty and possibility. We use *will* and *should* to talk about a very certain situation; while we use *may* for a possible (i.e. less certain) situation. We use *might* and *could* to talk about an unlikely (i.e. the least certain) situation.

## Talking about certainty &amp; possibility



We use *will* and *should* to express certainty.

e.g. Kelvin **will** finish cooking the dish soon. (Very certain)

e.g. Dave had noodles half an hour ago. He **should not** feel hungry now. (Quite certain)



We use *may*, *might* and *could* to express possibility.

e.g. Susan **may** break up with John since John isn't caring. (Possible)

e.g. John is poor. However, he still thinks that he **could** marry Susan someday. (Not very possible)





## Educator's Tips



**We** use the base form of a verb after a modal verb.

*X knows*

**e.g.** Ken has a map. He **should** know the way to the museum.

**We** do not change the form of the modal verbs *will*, *should*, *may*, *might* and *could*.

*X wills*

**e.g.** Sally **will** get off the train at the next station.



## Part 1 Will

We use the modal verb *will* to show that we are very certain that something will happen. We use the negative form *will not* to show that we are certain that something will not happen.

Positive statement	Negative statement
The big sale of the department store <b>will</b> start this coming Monday.	Timmy <b>will not / won't</b> participate in the football match. He broke his leg yesterday.

Question			Short answer
<b>Will</b>	the students	pass the test?	Yes, they <b>will</b> .
			No, they <b>will not / won't</b> .

## Exercise 1

There is a mistake in each sentence. Underline the mistakes and write the correct words in the spaces provided.

- My dad shoulds pass his driving test. He has practised a lot. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jenny didn't come to the office today. She may not felt well. \_\_\_\_\_
- Coulded he finish all the work on his own? \_\_\_\_\_
- A: Will the special guest arrives before 9 pm tonight? \_\_\_\_\_  
B: Yes, she does. \_\_\_\_\_
- A: Wills you attend my wedding ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_  
B: No, I might not. I'm sorry about that. \_\_\_\_\_



## Part 2 Should

We use the modal verb *should* to show that we are quite certain that something will happen. We use *should* (instead of *will*) when the situation is less certain. We use the negative form *should not* to show that we are quite certain that something will not happen.

Positive statement	Negative statement
The new student <b>should</b> recognise her classmates. She has been here for a week.	John <b>should not / shouldn't</b> arrive in Shatin in 10 minutes. He is still in Central.

Question			Short answer
<b>Should</b>	our team	win the competition?	Yes, we <b>should</b> .
			No, we <b>should not / shouldn't</b> .

### Exercise 2

Circle the correct words in brackets.

1. John is leaving Hong Kong for the States tonight by plane.

He ( won't / shouldn't ) join the meeting tomorrow.

2. Jason: Should everyone in our class pass the test?

Minnie: Yes, we ( should / will ). It's not that difficult.

3. I guess that Jackson's singing skills ( should / shouldn't ) improve.

He's learning singing with a teacher.

4. Kid: Should the train arrive soon?

Mum: No, it ( shouldn't / won't ). The previous train has just left.

It takes 5 minutes for the next one to come.

5. Boss: ( Will / Should ) you finish your work before you leave today?

Manager: Yes, I ( will / should ). I know it's urgent.





## Part 3 May, Might, Could

We use the modal verb *may* to show that it is possible that something will happen; while we use the modal verbs *might* and *could* to show that something is less possible to happen. We use *may not* and *might not* to show that it is possible that something will not happen; while we use *could not* to show that something is impossible.

Positive statement	Negative statement
Tony is quite clever. He <b>may</b> know the answer to the riddle.	We <b>may not</b> go to that restaurant again because it is quite far away.
David <b>might / could</b> win the lottery, but it is not likely.	David <b>might not</b> win the lottery, but he buys it out of habit.
	David <b>could not / couldn't</b> win the lottery because he has not bought it.

Question		
<b>May</b>	Potter	come to the party?
<b>Might / Could</b>	the lady	marry him?

Short answer
Yes, he <b>may</b> .
No, he <b>may not</b> .
Yes, she <b>might / could</b> .
No, she <b>might not / could not / couldn't</b> .

### Exercise 3

Complete the conversations with 'will', 'should', 'may', 'might' or 'could'. Use the negative form when necessary.

1. A: \_\_\_\_\_ it be rainy tomorrow?

B: Yes, it should. The typhoon is arriving and the weather \_\_\_\_\_ turn bad very soon.



2. A: Might the police find my lost purse?

B: Yes, they \_\_\_\_\_ but don't have a very high expectation.

3. A: Could we take part in the football match?

B: No, we \_\_\_\_\_. It is for students under 12.

We are all 14. Our team members \_\_\_\_\_

be disappointed when they get this news.



## Unit Recap

Cindy is writing a letter to the editor about gift wrapping. Underline the correct modal verbs in brackets.

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article 'Luxurious Gift Wrapping Ideas' on 19 July, I would like to point out that it **(1)** ( might not / will not ) be environmentally friendly to promote overpackaging.

Some people **(2)** ( could / may ) think that they need to present gifts with fancy packaging; otherwise they **(3)** ( will / might ) lose face. As a result, they **(4)** ( should / may ) use many packaging materials such as wrapping paper, boxes and ribbons.

However, many of us just throw away the wrappings as soon as we unwrap the gifts. It **(5)** ( could / will ) cause a lot of waste. Moreover, more trees **(6)** ( might / will ) be cut down in order to produce wrapping paper, which is not beneficial to the environment. Therefore, I think it **(7)** ( could not / may not ) be necessary to pack gifts with decorative packaging.

As an alternative to luxurious wrappings, we **(8)** ( will / could ) use recyclable wrapping cloth instead of wrapping paper. Furthermore, we can try to use as few materials as possible for wrappings.

After all, most of us **(9)** ( may / will ) be happy when we receive gifts. The receivers **(10)** ( might not / should not ) mind whether the gifts are packed well or not.

Yours faithfully,  
Cindy Wu



### Vocabulary:

decorative (adj.): made to look attractive or pretty

alternative (n.): something that you can choose out of two or more possibilities