



MAY VS WOULD

A. May vs. Would: Simple Introduction

Teacher Discussion Points

"May" is used for:

1. **Asking for permission**
"May I open the window?"
2. **Giving permission**
"Yes, you may open it."
3. **Possibility**
"It may rain later today."

"Would" is used for:

1. **Polite requests**
"Would you pass the salt, please?"
2. **Offers**
"Would you like some tea?"
3. **Preferences**
"I would prefer coffee instead."

B. Confusing Examples to Discuss

Ask students which is correct and why:

- "May I help you?" / "Would I help you?" (First is correct - asking permission to help)
- "May you like this gift?" / "Would you like this gift?" (*Second is correct - offering something*)
- "It may be cold tomorrow." / "It would be cold tomorrow." (*First is correct for possibility*)
- "May you pass me the book?" / "Would you pass me the book?" (*Second is correct for polite requests*)

C. Fill-in-the-Gap Activity

Read each sentence aloud, pausing at the gap. Ask students to choose **may** or **would**.

1. "_____ I borrow your pen, please?" (may)
2. "_____ you like something to drink?" (would)
3. "She _____ arrive late to the party." (may)
4. "_____ you mind opening the door?" (would)
5. "You _____ use my computer if you need to." (may)
6. "I _____ prefer to stay home tonight." (would)
7. "_____ we go to the park after school?" (may)
8. "He _____ be at home now, I'm not sure." (may)
9. "_____ you help me with this exercise?" (would)
10. "They _____ not come if it rains." (may)

Student Practice Activities

A. Situation Cards

1. Work with a partner or small group
2. Take turns picking a situation card
3. Create a sentence using either "may" or "would" that fits the situation
4. Explain why you chose "may" or "would"

Situation Cards:

- You want to leave the classroom
- You want to offer a snack to a classmate
- You're not sure if your friend is coming to the party
- You need a favor from someone
- You want to ask permission to use the bathroom
- You want to offer help to your teacher
- You think it's possible that the bus will be late
- You want to ask for a second serving of food politely
- You aren't sure if your answer is correct
- You want to borrow something from a classmate

B. Role Play Situations

1. Work with a partner
2. Choose one of the situations below
3. Create a short dialogue using "may" and "would" correctly
4. Practice your dialogue
5. Perform it for the class

Role Play Situations

Restaurant Scene

- One student is the customer
- One student is the waiter/waitress
- Use "would" for ordering and offering
- Use "may" for asking permission

Classroom Scene

- One student is a student
- One student is the teacher
- Use "may" to ask for permission
- Use "would" for polite requests

Shopping Scene

- One student is a customer
- One student is a shop assistant
- Use "would" to ask for items politely
- Use "may" for possibilities ("This shirt may be too small")

Friends Planning Scene

- Both students are friends planning the weekend
- Use "may" for possibilities ("It may rain on Saturday")
- Use "would" for preferences ("I would prefer to go to the movies")