

Grammar L2GLO4

Possibility and Requests

Learning Outcome 4: Modals: possibility (*may, might, possibly, perhaps, probably*);
request: *would*

NOTICING A Read the conversations. Answer the questions below.

1. A: Would you run 10 kilometers with me?

B: Yes. I will probably get to the finish line. I can run that far.

2. A: Would you go for an ice cream with me this evening?

B: I might come with you, but I'm not sure. I have a lot of homework to do today.

3. A: Would you help me with my project on Saturday?

B: Perhaps. I may have time on Saturday. I'll ask my parents.

4. A: Would you make a video about football with me?

B: I will possibly have time to do it tomorrow evening. I have some free time then.

1. Which underlined word(s) do you use ...

a. after *will* to say that there's a good chance something will happen? _____

b. after *will* to say that something is possible? _____

c. at the start of a sentence to say that something is possible? _____

d. After *I/you/he/she/it/we/they* to say that something is possible? _____ , _____

2. What do you use *would* for in the questions above?

a. to make someone do something

b. to ask someone if it's OK to do something

c. to ask someone to do something

Possibility and requests

Possibility

You use *may* and *might* before a verb to say that something is possible.

You use *perhaps* as a short answer to a question to say that something is possible, but you're not sure.

You use *possibly* after *will* to say that something is possible in the future.

You use *probably* after *will* to say that there's a good chance (more than 50%) something will happen in the future.

Requests

You use *would you* + verb to ask someone to do something with you or for you.

B Read the sentences. Choose the correct option.

1. (Perhaps / Would) you go to the supermarket and buy some bread?
2. The teacher will (probably / possibly) arrive early. He arrives early nearly every week.
3. We (might / possibly) finish the project this week, but I don't think we will.
4. A: Do you want to learn to surf?
B: (Probably / Perhaps). I've never done it before, but I could try it.
5. Faisal will (possibly / may) want to be in our team. He usually likes to work with us.
6. I (may / probably) bake some cookies, but there are other things I could make too.

C In your notebook, note down some things you can ask your partner to do with you or for you. Use *Would you ...?* Then think about what activities you would or would not do with/for your partner and when you have time to do these activities. Make notes.

D Work in pairs. Use your notes from exercise C to ask your partner to do things with you or for you. Then answer your partner's questions.