

40 Possibility

The modal verb “might” is used to talk about things that are possible but not certain. It is often used when talking about the weather.

⚙️ **New language** “Might” to show possibility

Aa **Vocabulary** Weather and landscape

🧩 **New skill** Discussing possibilities

40.1 KEY LANGUAGE “MIGHT” FOR POSSIBILITY

You can add “might” to different phrases to refer to past, present, or future possibilities.

PAST POSSIBILITY

“MIGHT” + “HAVE” + PAST PARTICIPLE

I can't find the compass. I **might have dropped** it earlier.



PRESENT POSSIBILITY

“MIGHT” + “BE”

I don't remember this path. We **might be** lost.



FUTURE POSSIBILITY

“MIGHT” + BASE VERB

It's very cold outside. It **might snow** later on.



40.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES “MIGHT” FOR POSSIBILITY

We **might have taken** a wrong turn at the river.

It **might be** windy at the top of the mountain.

Joe **might not come** walking with us next weekend.

“Not” always comes after
“might” to form the negative.

TIP

Questions with “might” are only used in very formal English.





40.3 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE PHRASES IN THE PANEL

Paris looks romantic. I might take John there next weekend.

- 1 I can't find my purse. I _____ it on the metro.
- 2 Don't disturb him. He _____.
- 3 I _____ out later if it stops raining.
- 4 I don't know where we are. We _____ the wrong turn.
- 5 I _____, but I think the answer is A.
- 6 When we're in Venice, I _____ him to marry me.
- 7 Show everyone her photograph. Someone _____ her.
- 8 Cameron _____ stuck in traffic. He should be here by now.

might have left
~~might take~~
 might have taken
 might be
 might ask
 might be wrong
 might go
 might have seen
 might be sleeping



40.4 REWRITE THE HIGHLIGHTED PHRASES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

SPORTS WEEKLY

Mountain biker

Paul and Martin's mountain bike adventures

For last week's challenge, we thought it **might been** fun to try out the new mountain bike trail on Bluff Point. So we went last weekend and it didn't disappoint! I thought it **might been** too easy for experienced bikers like us but I think I **might have get** that wrong! The trail up through the forest was really tough and I thought we **might fell** into the valley. I know Jeff thought we **might had lost** our way at one point, but the track soon became clear. When we finally reached Bluff Point, it was



amazing. The downhill trail was scary and a bit crowded at times. There **might have be** as many as 30 bikers on the track that afternoon, but we had a great time. The jumps were awesome, and we think we **might be go** back next weekend. We also **might taken** some photos for the next week's column. Watch this space!

might have been

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____

40.5 KEY LANGUAGE CONTRACTIONS OF "MIGHT"

In spoken English, "have" is often contracted in phrases with "might."

He **might have** got lost.



He **might've** got lost.

He **might not have** found the path.



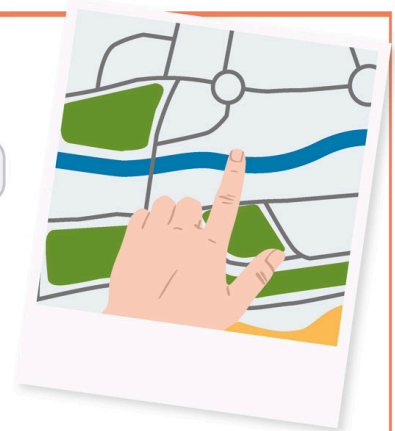
He **might not've** found the path.



40.6 FILL IN THE GAPS BY CONTRACTING "HAVE"

Alan might not've (might not have) read the map correctly.

- 1 Georgia _____ (might have) walked around the lake.
- 2 They _____ (might not have) reached the valley yet.
- 3 We _____ (might have) left the supplies at the tent.
- 4 Horace _____ (might not have) climbed the mountain.



40.7 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, CONTRACTING "HAVE"

I might not have seen Iris at the lake.

I might not've seen Iris at the lake.



- 1 Dad might have bought me a new compass.



- 2 They might not have crossed the river yet.



- 3 Jonah might have pitched the tent by now.



- 4 I can't find my map. I might not have packed it.



- 5 Don might have hiked over the mountain already.





40.8 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Phoebe and Javid have become lost while hiking. They are deciding which way to go next.

Phoebe thinks they might be lost.

True ☒ False ☐

1 Javid thinks they might be in Reef Canyon.

True ☐ False ☐

2 They can see the forest marked on the map.

True ☐ False ☐

3 They might have seen Blue Mountain yesterday.

True ☐ False ☐

4 Phoebe thinks the forest might be dangerous.

True ☐ False ☐

40 CHECKLIST

"Might" to show possibility ☐

Aa Weather and landscape ☐

Discussing possibilities ☐

REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 36–40

NEW LANGUAGE	SAMPLE SENTENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNIT
PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE PLANS	Jane is having lunch with friends next Tuesday .	<input type="checkbox"/>	36.1
COLLOCATIONS WITH "TAKE"	She's taking a trip to the beach this morning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	36.6
USING "GOING TO" WHEN YOU HAVE MADE A DECISION BEFORE SPEAKING	I am going to play tennis every week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	37.1
USING "GOING TO" TO MAKE A PREDICTION BASED ON EVIDENCE	Angie is going to lose weight because she's stopped eating unhealthy food.	<input type="checkbox"/>	37.4
USING "WILL" TO MAKE A PREDICTION AND TO OFFER TO DO SOMETHING	Don't go out in the rain. You'll get soaked! You look frozen. I'll make you some hot soup.	<input type="checkbox"/>	39.1
USING "WILL" WHEN PROMISING AND DECIDING AT THE TIME OF SPEAKING	We'll be there by seven. Don't worry! I know! I'll buy a surfboard for his birthday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	39.1
"MIGHT" TO SHOW PAST POSSIBILITY	I can't find the compass. I might have dropped it earlier.	<input type="checkbox"/>	40.1
"MIGHT" TO SHOW PRESENT POSSIBILITY	I don't remember this path. We might be lost.	<input type="checkbox"/>	40.1
"MIGHT" TO SHOW FUTURE POSSIBILITY	It's very cold outside. It might snow later on.	<input type="checkbox"/>	40.1