

Here is Audio Word Study #038 from Jane Lawson at DailyStep.com

This week we continue our look at ways of using MIGHT. You can see the first part of this word study in Audio Blog #037. Remember to read these examples aloud, and speak along with the audio file if you are a subscriber to my lessons, as this will help you to fix the grammar structures in your mind!

Might (modal verb)

Meaning 4: 'Might' is used to introduce a statement that is a big contrast to the statement you really want to make, in order to compare the two.

Examples: 1. This car might be brand new, but it sounds as if it's 10 years old. I think you need to get the engine fixed! (*note: we could also say, 'even though this car is brand new, it sounds as if it is 10 years old.'*)

2. Manchester United might be a great football team, but we can still beat them. (*note: we could also say: 'Even though Manchester United is a great football team, we can still beat them.'*)

Meaning 5: We use 'might' to suggest what someone should do to in order to behave in a polite, correct or pleasant way. Using 'might' in this way usually shows that we are angry – but you need to copy the intonation and emphasis carefully!

Examples: 1. Husband: "My mother is coming over tonight to stay for a week."

Wife: "Well, you might have given me a bit more notice! I'll need to spring clean the house - look at all this mess!" (*note: the word 'might' has extra emphasis here!*)

2. My boss has told me to work over the weekend. He might have told me earlier – I booked some theatre tickets last night and now I'll have to give them away!

3. I know you don't want to be at this party, but you might at least pretend to be enjoying yourself, just to be polite! (*note: this means '...the minimum that you could do is pretend to be enjoying yourself!' The speaker is implying that the other person is rude by openly showing that he is not enjoying himself!*)

Meaning 6: We use 'might' to make a suggestion or suggest a possibility in a polite, indirect way.

Examples: 1. "I'll be near your office tomorrow so I thought you might like to join me for lunch"

"Yes, that would be lovely thank you. Shall we say around 12.30?" (*note: here, the invitation is very indirect, saying 'I thought you might like to join me', which is not a question, instead of 'Would you like to join me...?'.)*

2. As you are so interested in musical instruments, you might like to visit the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill while you are in London – it has the most amazing collection of all kinds of instruments!

3. This gravy is delicious – but you might like to try adding a bit more salt next time. (*note: be careful when you use this kind of sentence. Even though it is polite, many people would not welcome this kind of suggestion about their cooking!*)

So, those are the ways that we use MIGHT as a modal verb – but did you know that MIGHT can also be a noun, with a related adjective?

Might (noun)

Meaning: Force, power, strength

Examples: 1. In the boxing ring, he faced the might of the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. To everyone's surprise, he beat the champion and won the fight!

2. The dog swam with all its might after falling in the river, and finally reached the other

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side. (**note:** remember the whole underlined phrase 'with all its might'. This means 'with all its strength'.)

Mighty (adjective)

Meaning: Very large, powerful or important

Examples: 1. The mighty Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
2. In a recent football match, the mighty Chelsea were beaten by a small, local team!

Now, try to write your own sentences using these meanings of MIGHT. Make sure these sentences are true to your own life because this will help you to remember them better. That is all for Audio Word Study #038 on DailyStep.com.

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