

Using maybe and may be

Maybe is an adverb. It can be used in the following ways.

Maybe can modify an entire sentence.

Maybe she will come.

Maybe we will win.

Maybe you should leave her alone.

Maybe can be used before a number.

There were maybe 100 people at the meeting.

Maybe is used when you are not sure whether something is true or whether something will happen.

Maybe she will come.

Maybe it will rain tonight.

Maybe Amelie was right when she said that I needed to mend my ways.

'When will you finish the work?' 'I don't know. Maybe tomorrow.'

Maybe is used when you are guessing a number.

It may cost maybe 200 dollars.

The whole process will take maybe 15 minutes.

Maybe can be used to make a suggestion.

Maybe you should get another job.

Maybe and may be

The adverb maybe is often confused with the verb may be.

Maybe means the same as perhaps.

Maybe you are right. OR Perhaps you are right.

May be is the equivalent of 'could be'.

Using maybe and may be

There may be a strike next week. (NOT There maybe a strike next week.)

She may be unhappy with the developments. (NOT She maybe unhappy with the developments.)

There were maybe fifteen people at the meeting. (NOT There were may be fifteen people at the meeting.)

She is maybe fifty. (NOT She is may be fifty.)

Note that maybe is preferred in an informal style. In a more formal style, we use perhaps.