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English In A Minute

Maybe vs May be

This is not a word-for-word transcript



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Hi, everyone! What's the difference between '**maybe**' and '**may be**'? Well, we're going to find out in this English In A Minute.

May is used to express possibility – usually not a very certain one. It's a modal verb so it's always followed by a bare infinitive. The bare infinitive of 'be' is... be! Using the two together, we can make a sentence: Don't call her. **She may be at work!**

Now, **maybe** is just one word. It's an adverb and it has a few uses. Most commonly, it means 'perhaps' or 'possibly'. In this case, it's often the first word in the sentence. Don't call her. **Maybe she's at work!**

However, put it in front of an amount to mean 'around' or 'approximately'. **This video will be seen by maybe a million people.** Make it happen, people!