



The Bowfin Inquirer



May, 2022

“Address To Impress” Contest

for Bowfin St. children ages 2 - 16

These 6 photographs of Bowfin Street homes' front yards were taken about two months ago. To participate in this contest, children are to find the houses pictured here, **add up** their six street addresses, **and subtract** the Bowfin Inquirer's **first year of publication**, to arrive at a **two-digit number**. Write THAT NUMBER along with your name and address on Bowfin, and email us at editor@bowfininquirer.com. OR - write these on a sheet of paper and leave it in our mailbox (344). **Deadline for entries is June 15, 2022.**

\$20 cash prizes will be awarded to three entrants providing the correct number.

If there are more than three entries, winners will be selected by random drawing. Only one winner per household.

Have fun, kids!



The other four front yard photos are on page 4

Aaron's Answers



CAN



MAY

Question: An alternative to "May I?" in requesting permission is "Can I?" - but there is a difference between them, I seem to recall. Can you ... *or May you?* :-)) ... provide our readers with when, if ever, to use CAN and when to use MAY ? -Jerry

Aaron's Answer: Everyone knows the joke about can and may. A student raises his hand and says "Can I go to the bathroom," to which the teacher replies "I don't know, can you?" This joke plays on the fact that *may* is the correct word to use in that sentence. However, technically speaking both words are correct. The original meaning of the word *may* was to express permission, and you would use the word *may* to ask to use the restroom or to excuse yourself from the dinner table. The original meaning of the word *can* was to express ability. So, in their original forms, the phrase *may* I use the restroom is asking for permission, while *can* I use the restroom is asking if the person has the ability to use the restroom.

There is a concept called "semantic change" in every language. The concept refers to the following scenario. Imagine that on a faraway planet there is a bunch of aliens who speak a language. One of their words is "blurg," which

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