Can/can’t- may/may not

* We use can/can’t to express ability or lack of ability. (pot sa, nu pot sa)

Ex: I can swim.

You can’t play the piano.

* We use can/can’t to ask for permission or to refuse permission to do something.  
  ( in situatii informale: ai voie sa, nu ai voie sa)

Ex: Can I play in the garden, dad? ( Pot/am voie sa ma joc in curte, tata?)

Yes, you can. ( Da, poti.)

* We use may to ask for permission, may not to refuse permission.(in situatii formale, un mod mai politicos)

Ex: May I sit down, Mrs. Smith? ( Pot sa ma asez, doamna Smith?)

Yes, you may.

No, you may not.