Modal Auxiliaries Exercise

This grammar exercise tests your ability to use modal auxiliaries correctly. Fill in the blanks.

1. She ....................... have gone to work but I am not sure.
   - may
   - can
   - will

2. You ......................... be right. I don't know.
   - may
   - can
   - will

3. ........................... I borrow your camera?
   - Can
   - May
   - Either could be used here

4. ........................... you move a bit?
   - Can
   - May
   - Might
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5. ...................... I come in teacher?

May
Can
Either could be used here

6. She ....................... read when she was just three.

can
could
might

7. It is impossible. They ......................... have lost their way.

can't
mayn't
mustn't

8. You ....................... go after you have finished your work.

may
Can
Either could be used here
9. What ......................... you do if she doesn't recognize you?

  - can
  - will
  - shall

10. .............................. you translate this article into German?

  - Can
  - May
  - Could
  - Either can or could

11. Who ......................... it be?

  - can
  - may
  - Either could be used here

12. You ....................... smoke in the kitchen.

  - might not
  - cannot
  - could not
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Answers

1. She may have gone to work but I am not sure.
2. You may be right. I don’t know.
3. Can / May I borrow your camera?
4. Can you move a bit?
5. Can / May I come in teacher?
6. She could read when she was just three.
7. It is impossible. They can’t have lost their way.
8. You can / may go after you have finished your work.
9. What will you do if she doesn’t recognize you?
10. Can you translate this article into German?
11. Who can it be?
12. You can’t smoke in the kitchen.