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
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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.