

Modal auxiliary verbs exercise

Complete the following sentences using appropriate modal auxiliary verbs. The meaning that you need to convey is given in the brackets.

1. You not spit on the road.
(Prohibition)

must
will
may

2. You not steal. (Prohibition)

may
can
must

3. She behave herself. (Necessity)

must
will
would

4. We obey the rules. (Obligation)

should
shall

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may

5. If you have finished your job, you
go. (Permission)

may
will
can

6. I speak four languages. (Ability)

can
may
could

7. She read when she was just
three years old. (Past ability)

can
could
would

8. He stand on his head. (Ability)

can

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will
may

9. My grandmother is eighty. She still read without glasses. (Ability)

can
may
could

10. I borrow your camera? (Permission)

Please select 2 correct answers

Can
May
Shall

11. 'I'm starving.' 'I get you something to eat.' (Willingness)

will
would
should

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Answers

1. You must not spit on the road. (Prohibition)
2. You must not steal. (Prohibition)
3. She must behave herself. (Necessity)
4. We should obey the rules. (Use must to express strong obligation.)
5. If you have finished your job, you may go. (Can is possible in a less formal style.)
6. I can speak four languages.
7. She could read when she was just three years old.
8. He can stand on his head.
9. My grandmother is eighty. She can still read without glasses.
10. Can / May I borrow your camera?
11. 'I'm starving.' 'I will get you something to eat.'