

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate modal auxiliary verb.

1. She speak Italian really well.

can
may
might

We use can to talk about ability.

2. I asked if you arrive in the afternoon.

can
could
might

When the verb in the main clause is in the past tense, we use a past tense in the subordinate clause. Could is the past tense of can.

3. She walk when she was just nine months old.

can
could
might

4. If you take rest for an hour, you feel better.

may
can
could
might

All of these can be used to talk about possibility in affirmative sentences.

5. After giving birth, a woman suffer from depression for many months.

may

can
shall

May is often used to talk about typical occurrences.

6. She said that she go to the movies.

may
can
might

Might is the past tense of may.

7. You have lots of money, but that doesn't mean you are better than me.

might
would
should

8. When I was a child, I watch TV whenever I wanted.

may
might
could

We use could to talk about past ability.

9. he arrive on time?

Will
Would
Shall

10. I be happy even if I do not win the prize.

will
could

may

Will is used to make predictions about the future.

11. She be here soon.

shall

should

would

We often use should to talk about logical possibility.

12. I kill him if he reads my letters again.

will

shall

would

Will is used in threats.

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Answers

1. She can speak Italian really well.
2. I asked if you could arrive in the afternoon.
3. She could walk when she was just nine months old.
4. If you take rest for an hour, you may / might /could feel better.
5. After giving birth, a woman may suffer from depression for many months.
6. She said that she might go to the movies.
7. You might have lots of money, but that doesn't mean you are better than me.

8. When I was a child, I could watch TV whenever I wanted.

9. Will he arrive on time?

10. I will be happy even if I do not win the prize.

11. She should be here soon. 12. I will kill him if he reads my letters again.