

Modal Auxiliary Verbs: Exercise

Fill in the blanks with appropriate modal auxiliary verbs. Each question is followed by four suggested answers. Choose the most appropriate one.

1. He is afraid to speak, lest he
be laughed at.

- would
- should
- can
- could

2. He said he not come.

- will
- would
- shall

3. Had I seen you, I have
come.

- would
- will
- may

4. He swim across the river

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when he was young.

can
could
may

5. He told me that he not help me.

can
may
could

6. you live long!

May
Will
Shall

7. If I had studied medicine I have become a doctor.

can
will
would

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8. I have arrived in time, if I had not lost my way.

could

can

will

9. I very much like to see my old classmates.

will

would

could

10. We not hurry, we have got plenty of time.

need

would

shall

Answers

1. He is afraid to speak, lest he should be laughed at.

2. He said he would not come.

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3. Had I seen you, I would have come.
4. He could swim across the river when he was young.
5. He told me that he could not help me.
6. May you live long!
7. If I had studied medicine I would have become a doctor.
8. I could have arrived in time, if I had not lost my way.
9. I would very much like to see my old classmates.
10. We need not hurry, we have got plenty of time.