Fill in the blanks with an appropriate modal auxiliary verb.

1. They haven’t eaten anything for hours. They ......................... be hungry.
   - can
   - must
   - would

2. The product is selling well. It ......................... be good.
   - can
   - may
   - must

3. She left home at six. She ......................... be here soon.
Modals Exercise

4. I can't find my wallet. I had left it on the table. Somebody .................................. have stolen it.

must

can

should

5. There is something behind the curtain. It .................................. be the cat.

Please select 2 correct answers

can
6. There is someone outside the door. Who .................. it be?

Please select 2 correct answers

may

could

7. 'Why is she so late today?' 'She ...................... be working late.'

Please select 2 correct answers

could
Modals Exercise

8. How ........................... anybody be so cruel?

Please select 2 correct answers

- can
- may
- could

9. You ............................ have told me that you were not coming.

- should
- would
- can
10. We went skiing last week. That ........................ have been fun.

   can  
   must  
   will  

11. You ............................... have told her. She already knew.

   must not  
   need not  
   should not  

12. Winter ............................ be quite harsh in this part of the world.

   can  

www.englishgrammar.org
Answers

1. They haven’t eaten anything for hours. They must be hungry.
2. The product is selling well. It must be good.
3. She left home at six. She should be here soon.
4. I can’t find my wallet. I had left it on the table. Somebody must have stolen it.
5. There is something behind the curtain. It may be the cat.
6. There is someone outside the door. Who can it be?
7. ‘Why is she so late today?’ ‘She could/may be working late.’
8. How can anybody be so cruel?
9. You should have told me that you were not coming.
10. We went skiing last week. That must have been fun.
11. You needn’t have told her. She already knew.
12. Winter can be quite harsh in this part of the world.