Modals Exercise

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate auxiliary verb.

1. Anyone .......................... do this. (Ability)

   can

   may

   will

2. I .......................... have married her if I had wanted to. (Unrealized past ability)

   could

   can

   will

3. We .......................... go swimming on the weekend. (Possibility)
Modals Exercise

may

will

shall

4. I was so angry I ……………………… have slapped him.

can

could

should

5. One day, it ……………………… be possible to live on other planets. (Future prediction)

will

would
Modals Exercise

6. Tropical areas ……………………….... be very warm throughout the year. (Possibility)

shall

can

may

might

7. Epidemics …………………………. break out any day. (Theoretical possibility)

can

may

might
Modals Exercise

8. ‘There is the doorbell.’ ‘Who ......................... it be?’

- can
- may
- might

9. ‘Where is Janet?’ ‘She ......................... be in the basement.’

Please select 2 correct answers

- can
- could
- may

10. ‘What ......................... we do now?’

- will
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<th>Modals Exercise</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>can</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>shall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11. I ......................... see something over there.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>may</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>can</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>might</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12. I ......................... help but laugh.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>wouldn't</strong></td>
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<td><strong>couldn't</strong></td>
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<td><strong>shouldn't</strong></td>
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Modals Exercise

Answers
1. Anyone can do this.
2. I could have married her if I had wanted to.
3. We may go swimming on the weekend.
4. I was so angry I could have slapped him.
5. One day, it will be possible to live on other planets.
6. Tropical areas can be very warm throughout the year.
7. Epidemics can break out any day.
8. ‘There is the doorbell.’ ‘Who can it be?’
9. ‘Where is Janet?’ ‘She may be / could be in the basement.’
10. ‘What shall we do now?’
11. I can see something over there.
12. I couldn’t help but laugh.