Modals Exercise

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate auxiliary verb.

1. Anybody who wants to participate …………………….. register. (Ability)

   can
   will
   may

2. I ……………………… have bought that car if I had more money. (Past ability)

   should
   could
   would

3. She ……………………… arrive in the afternoon. (Possibility)
Modals Exercise

4. ‘We went hiking yesterday.’ ‘That \ldots have been a lot of fun.’ (Logical conclusion)

5. One day, it \ldots be possible to connect with extra terrestrial life. (Future prediction)
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will

would

6. I ......................... pay you back when I get a job. (Promise)

will

may

can

7. Glass ......................... be blown. (Theoretical possibility)

may

can

will
8. You ......................... have called me if you weren’t coming. (Criticism)

   should

   would

   ought

9. You ......................... not violate the law. (Prohibition)

   must

   need

   will

10. The saplings ......................... be watered regularly. (Necessity)

   should
11. By next December, I ………………………. have been teaching here for twenty years. (Future certainty)

will

could

should

12. What ……………………….. we do now? (Asking for suggestion)

shall

will

would
Modals Exercise

Answers

Anybody who wants to participate can register.
I could have bought that car if I had more money. (Past ability)
She may / might arrive in the afternoon. (Possibility)
‘We went hiking yesterday.’ ‘That must have been a lot of fun.’ (Logical conclusion)
One day, it will be possible to connect with extra terrestrial life. (Future prediction)
I will pay you back when I get a job. (Promise)
Glass can be blown. (Theoretical possibility)
You should have called me if you weren’t coming. (Criticism)
You must not violate the law. (Prohibition)
The saplings should be watered regularly. (Necessity)
By next December, I will have been teaching here for twenty years. (Future prediction)
What shall we do now? (Asking for suggestion)