

EXERCISE 8

Read the information. Then match the situations with the examples.

Can, could, may and might

Talking about ability

- Present: *can / can't*
- Past: *could / couldn't*
- Future: *will be able to / won't be able to*

Asking for permission

- Formal: *May / Could I / we ... ?*
- Less formal: *Can I / we ... ?*

Giving permission (saying 'yes') and refusing permission (saying 'no')

- Very formal: *You may / may not ...*
- Less formal: *You can / can't ...*

Asking for help

- Formal: *Could you ... ?*
- Less formal: *Can you ... ?*

Offering help

- *I can ... / Can I (help) ... ?*

Talking about things that aren't certain in the future

- Positive: *It may / might / could happen.*
- Negative: *It may not happen / It might not happen.*

Asking for help	Asking for permission	Giving permission	Offering help
Refusing permission	Talking about future ability	Talking about past ability	
Talking about present ability	Talking about something that's not certain in the future		

1. May I leave early, please? _____
 2. You can leave when you're ready. _____
 3. I'm afraid you can't sit there. _____
 4. I didn't enjoy the concert because I couldn't see the stage.

 5. She isn't talented – she can't even sing!

 6. Don't phone me when I'm at the concert later. I won't be able to talk to you
_____.
 7. I might go to the cinema tonight – I haven't decided yet.

 8. Could you hold my camera for me? _____
- Can I help you with your bags? _____