Modal Verbs of Ability and Permission Exercise

Check through the different uses.

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<th>USE</th>
<th>MODAL VERBS</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>expressing ability</td>
<td>CAN</td>
<td>María can drive.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>asking for permission</td>
<td>MAY, CAN, COULD</td>
<td>Could I borrow your pen?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>giving permission</td>
<td>MAY, CAN</td>
<td>You can use my phone.</td>
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<td>refusing permission, prohibition</td>
<td>CAN'T, MAY NOT</td>
<td>You may not talk in the exam</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>requests</td>
<td>CAN, COULD</td>
<td>Can you pass me the salt?</td>
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Look at the following phrases and write in which type you think it is. Then use one of the modal verbs in brackets to fill the gaps.

1. You (may/could)............................... leave now if you wish.
2. (Could/May)............................... you open the window a bit, please?
3. (May/Can)............................... you play the piano?
4. Listen, please. You (may not/could not)............................... speak during this exam.
5. You (can't/might not)............................... smoke on the bus.
6. (Can't/May)............................... I make a call on your mobile?
7. Do you know if Mark (can/may)............................... sing?
8. (Can't/May)............................... I sit here, please?
9. Caroline, your friends (can/could)............................... stay the night if they want to. They're perfectly welcome.
10. I'm sorry but you (can't/may)............................... use the computer until after I've finished.
11. (May/Could)............................... you lend me 40 Euros til Monday?
12. Listen, please. Students (may/could)............................... study in the library from five to nine in the evening.
Answers

1. TYPE 3 You may leave now if you wish.
2. TYPE 5 Could you open the window a bit, please?
3. TYPE 1 Can you play the piano?
4. TYPE 4 Listen, please. You may not speak during this exam.
5. TYPE 4 You may not smoke on the bus.
6. TYPE 2 May I make a call on your mobile?
7. TYPE 1 Do you know if Mark can sing?
8. TYPE 2 May I sit here, please?
9. TYPE 3 Caroline, your friends can stay the night if they want to. They're perfectly welcome.
10. TYPE 4 I'm sorry but you can't use the computer until after I've finished.
11. TYPE 5 Could you lend me 40 Euros till Monday?
12. TYPE 3 Listen, please. Students may study in the library from five to nine in the evening.