

Auxiliary verbs exercise

Complete the following sentences using an appropriate auxiliary verb form.

1. You have been riding non-stop for hours. You be very tired.

must

can

ought

2. She be about forty.

must

will

can

3. I know I left my phone on this table and it is not here now. Somebody it.

must take

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must have taken

can have taken

4. That be true. She will never do something like that.

can't

shouldn't

wouldn't

5. You him a fool. It really upset him.

needn't call

couldn't have called

shouldn't have called

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6. The doctor said I give up smoking.

must

can

ought

7. You nicer to her. She really cares for you.

can have been

should have been

would have been

8. you mind standing up for a moment?

Would

Should

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Could

9. That was a bad place to go hiking. You
..... your back.

should have broken

could have broken

should have broken

10. 'Who is at the door?' 'It be the
postman.'

must

could

Either could be used here

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Answers

1. You have been riding non-stop for hours. You must be very tired.
2. She must be about forty.
3. I know I left my phone on this table and it is not here now. Somebody must have taken it.
4. That can't be true. She will never do something like that.
5. You shouldn't have called him a fool. It really upset him.
6. The doctor said I must give up smoking.
7. You should have been nicer to her. She really cares for you.
8. Would you mind standing up for a moment?
9. That was a bad place to go hiking. You could have broken your back.
10. 'Who is at the door?' 'It must / could be the postman.' (Use must if you are certain that the person at the door is the postman. Use could to express possibility.)