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
   - must have taken
   - can have taken

4. That …………………. be true. She will never do something like that.
   - can't
Auxiliary verbs exercise

shouldn't
wouldn't

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

needn't call
couldn't have called
shouldn't have called

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
Auxiliary verbs exercise

moment?

Would
Should
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

Answers

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

2. She must be about forty.
Auxiliary verbs exercise

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.)