

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
must have taken
can have taken

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

can't

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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

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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.

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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.)