8.5 Auxiliary Verbs: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Robotics Challenge

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Written for Year 7 grammar practice, July 2026.

Maya had been practising with her robotics team for three weeks before the regional challenge. She felt ready, although she knew the competition would be tough.

On the morning of the contest, the hall was already crowded with teams from other schools. 'Have you tested the sensor yet?' asked her teammate Jack, glancing nervously at the clock. Maya hadn't checked it since breakfast, so she quickly ran a final test.

The robot must complete an obstacle course without any human control. If it touches the walls, the team will lose points. Maya's robot had been programmed to turn automatically whenever a sensor detected an obstacle, but nobody could say for certain it would work under pressure.

When the whistle sounded, the robot moved forward steadily. It should have turned left at the first corner, and it turned exactly as planned. The crowd cheered as the machine glided past every obstacle without a single mistake.

By the end of the day, Maya's team had been awarded first place. She couldn't stop smiling. 'We did it!' she shouted, hugging her teammates. The judges said they might invite the strongest teams back next year for a national final.

1 Each sentence below contains a common error where 'of' has wrongly been used instead of an auxiliary verb. Rewrite each sentence correctly.

(a) The team should of tested the robot again. **(1)**

(b) I would of helped if you had asked. **(1)**

(c) They must of forgotten the spare battery. **(1)**

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2 Each of these questions is missing its auxiliary verb. Rewrite each one correctly, adding the missing auxiliary verb.

(a) You finished the test yet? **(1)**

(b) She coming to the workshop tomorrow? **(1)**

(c) They ready for the competition? **(1)**

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3 Underline the auxiliary verb (or verbs) in each sentence below. Some of these subjects are trickier than others, so read each sentence carefully before deciding on a singular or plural form.

(a) Everybody in the hall was watching the trial nervously. **(1)**

(b) The committee has approved the new safety rules. **(1)**

(c) Either the coach or the assistants are checking the equipment. **(1)**

(d) Neither of the robots was working properly. **(1)**

(e) The students, along with their teacher, have arrived early. **(1)**

4 State what the underlined modal auxiliary verb expresses in each sentence: ABILITY, PERMISSION, OBLIGATION or POSSIBILITY.

(a) Visitors must sign in at reception before entering the workshop. **(1)**

(b) May I use the workshop computer, sir? **(1)**

(c) The judges might invite the strongest teams back next year. **(1)**

(d) When she was seven, Priya could already solve simple wiring puzzles. **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 8.5 Auxiliary Verbs: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) The team should have tested the robot again, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **The team should have tested the robot again.**

(b) I would have helped if you had asked, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **I would have helped if you had asked.**

(c) They must have forgotten the spare battery, cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **They must have forgotten the spare battery.**

Question 2

(a) Have you finished the test yet? cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **Have you finished the test yet?**

(b) Is she coming to the workshop tomorrow? cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **Is she coming to the workshop tomorrow?**

(c) Are they ready for the competition? cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **Are they ready for the competition?**

Question 3

(a) was underlined cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **was**

(b) has underlined cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **has**

(c) are underlined cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **are**

(d) was underlined cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **was**

(e) have underlined cao **B1**

(e) Answer: **have**

Question 4

(a) obligation cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **obligation**

(b) permission cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **permission**

(c) possibility cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **possibility**

(d) ability cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **ability**

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