8.5 Auxiliary Verbs: 30-minute Pack

about 30 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 These sentences are taken from the source text above. Underline the auxiliary verb (or verbs) in each one, then state whether the auxiliary is a PRIMARY auxiliary (be, have or do) or a MODAL auxiliary.

(a) Maya had been practising with her robotics team for three weeks before the regional challenge. **(2)**

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

(b) The robot must complete an obstacle course without any human control. **(2)**

(c) Maya's robot had been programmed to turn automatically whenever a sensor detected an obstacle. **(2)**

(d) The judges said they might invite the strongest teams back next year for a national final. **(2)**

---

2 Sort the word bank below into the correct column of the table. Each word belongs in ONE column only.

Word bank: is, can, did, should, have, might, was, must

Primary auxiliary verbs (be, have, do)	Modal auxiliary verbs

(8)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Complete each sentence with the correct primary auxiliary verb (a form of be, have or do).

(a) Maya ___ finished her design and is now testing it. **(1)**

(b) The robots ___ competing in the final round right now. **(1)**

(c) ___ you seen the new workshop yet? **(1)**

(d) She ___ not attend the meeting yesterday. **(1)**

4 Circle the modal auxiliary verb that correctly matches the meaning given in brackets.

(a) Students ___ bring a calculator into the exam hall. (permission) **(1)**

- ☐ may
- ☐ must

(b) All competitors ___ wear safety goggles in the workshop. (obligation) **(1)**

- ☐ might
- ☐ must

(c) It ___ rain during the outdoor trial, so bring a coat. (possibility) **(1)**

- ☐ might
- ☐ can

(d) My aunt ___ mend any radio when she was younger. (past ability) **(1)**

- ☐ could
- ☐ should

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

5 Rewrite each sentence in the negative, using a contracted auxiliary verb plus 'not'.

(a) The robot completed the course. **(1)**

(b) They have arrived at the hall. **(1)**

(c) She will attend the ceremony. **(1)**

6 Look again at the final sentence of the passage above: 'The judges said they might invite the strongest teams back next year for a national final.' Explain one effect of the writer's choice to use the modal verb 'might', rather than 'will', in this sentence.

(2)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

7 Identify and correct the auxiliary verb agreement error in each sentence.

(a) The robots was tested yesterday. **(1)**

(b) She don't have the right tools. **(1)**

(c) He have already finished the course. **(1)**

8 Write one sentence of your own for each instruction below. Use the modal auxiliary verb given correctly.

(a) Write a sentence using 'must' to express an obligation. **(2)**

(b) Write a sentence using 'might' to express possibility (not certainty). **(2)**

(c) Write a sentence using 'could' to express past ability. **(2)**

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 8.5 Auxiliary Verbs: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) had been underlined cao **B1**
(a) primary cao **B1**
(a) Answer: **had been; primary**
(b) must underlined cao **B1**
(b) modal cao **B1**
(b) Answer: **must; modal**
(c) had been underlined cao **B1**
(c) primary cao **B1**
(c) Answer: **had been; primary**
(d) might underlined cao **B1**
(d) modal cao **B1**
(d) Answer: **might; modal**

Question 2

is placed correctly in the Primary column, cao **B1**
did placed correctly in the Primary column, cao **B1**
have placed correctly in the Primary column, cao **B1**
was placed correctly in the Primary column, cao **B1**
can placed correctly in the Modal column, cao **B1**
should placed correctly in the Modal column, cao **B1**
might placed correctly in the Modal column, cao **B1**
must placed correctly in the Modal column, cao **B1**
Answer: **Primary auxiliary verbs: is, did, have, was. Modal auxiliary verbs: can, should, might, must.**

Question 3

(a) has cao **B1**
(a) Answer: **has**
(b) are cao **B1**
(b) Answer: **are**
(c) Have cao **B1**
(c) Answer: **Have**
(d) did cao **B1**
(d) Answer: **did**

Question 4

(a) may circled cao **B1**
(a) Answer: **may**
(b) must circled cao **B1**
(b) Answer: **must**
(c) might circled cao **B1**
(c) Answer: **might**
(d) could circled cao **B1**
(d) Answer: **could**

Question 5

(a) The robot didn't complete the course, cao **B1**
(a) Answer: **The robot didn't complete the course.**
(b) They haven't arrived at the hall, cao **B1**
(b) Answer: **They haven't arrived at the hall.**
(c) She won't attend the ceremony, cao **B1**
(c) Answer: **She won't attend the ceremony.**

Question 6

identifies that 'might' shows the invitation is only a possibility, not a certainty, unlike the more definite 'will' **B1**
develops the effect on the reader, e.g. it manages expectations or sounds more cautious and realistic, since no firm promise has been made (oe) **B1**
Answer: **'Might' shows that inviting the strongest teams back is only a possibility, not a certainty, unlike the more definite 'will'. This makes the statement sound cautious and realistic, so readers do not build up false expectations about next year's competition.**

Question 7

(a) The robots were tested yesterday, cao **B1**
(a) Answer: **The robots were tested yesterday.**
(b) She doesn't have the right tools, cao **B1**
(b) Answer: **She doesn't have the right tools.**
(c) He has already finished the course, cao **B1**
(c) Answer: **He has already finished the course.**

Question 8

(a) sentence clearly expresses an obligation or requirement (oe) **B1**
(a) 'must' used correctly, followed by a bare infinitive, cao **B1**
(a) Answer: **Example: All competitors must wear a helmet during the trial.**
(b) sentence clearly expresses an uncertain possibility (oe) **B1**
(b) 'might' used correctly, followed by a bare infinitive, cao **B1**
(b) Answer: **Example: The workshop might close early on Fridays.**
(c) sentence clearly describes a past capability (oe) **B1**
(c) 'could' used correctly, followed by a bare infinitive, cao **B1**
(c) Answer: **Example: My grandfather could fix any bicycle when he was young.**

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk