

Answer Key--Mens Rea and Actus Reus

In each of these scenarios, indicate if you think that the person had the actus reus (guilty act) and the mens rea (guilty mind) necessary to be found guilty of the crime.

Act	Mens Rea	Actus Reus
It was Hockey Night in Canada and the Vancouver Canucks were playing the Colorado Avalanche. Todd Bertuzzi of the Canucks was looking to get back at Steve Moore of the Avalanche. Bertuzzi grabbed Moore's jersey and punched him in the back of the head, knocking him unconscious. Bertuzzi landed on top of him, driving Moore face first into the ice while other players piled on. The combination of the hit, fall, and piling-on had resulted in three fractured neck vertebrae, facial cuts and a concussion. The incident ended Moore's professional hockey career.	X	X
In line for a concert, a friend asked Chanice to hold her bag while she went to the bathroom. A police officer approached Chanice and searched her friend's bag and found MDMA (Molly/Ecstasy). Chanice was charged with possession of an illegal drug.		X
Rasheed baby-sits the neighbour's kids every day after school, sometimes driving them to soccer in the family car. After dropping them off one day, he decides to watch their practice. Rasheed leaves the dog in the car for a few hours even though it's 35 degrees outside. Before the end of the game, someone walks by, notices the distressed dog, and calls the police.	X	X
Mark lost his temper in a restaurant because he felt the automatic gratuity on the bill was unfair. He slammed his fist down on the table and a glass flew off, hitting a customer at the next table and cutting his cheek just below the eye.		X
Brianna was on her way into the beer store when a man asked her if she would mind buying him a six-pack of beer while he stayed outside with his dog. She said sure and accepted his money. Once in line she thought that he looked a little young but bought him the beer anyway.		X
While browsing in a thrift store, Rose ran into a friend from her school. They decided to get a coffee. As they left the store, Rose forgot that she was still wearing a silver bracelet she was considering buying.		X
Carmen comes to work one Tuesday feeling sick. After a few hours at work, she decides she needs to go home because she's really tired. Carmen gets into her car and starts driving but she's having a hard time focusing on the road because she's so tired. A police officer driving behind her notices she is weaving across driving lanes. Just before he stops her, Carmen falls asleep at the wheel and drives into a ditch. Luckily, she is not seriously hurt.		X