

THE PASSIVE VOICE

EXERCISE 1.

Fill in the gaps with the correct passive voice of the verb given.

e.g. My car _____ (to borrow) by Jim.

My car was borrowed by Jim.

1. The cake (to eat) _____
by the children.
2. The book (to read) _____
in class.
3. The house (to destroy) _____ by
the flames.
4. The children (to watch) _____ by
Suzy.

5. The invalid (to cure) _____ by
Dr. Hayes.

6. The treasure (to steal) _____
by the pirates.

7. The sailor (to rescue) _____
by a surfer.

8. The park (to close) _____ by the
guardian at 8 o'clock.

9. An important jewel (to find) _____ on
the underground.

10. The door (to shut) _____ by
the wind.

11. The ballroom (to clean) _____ every
night.

12. The bank (to rob) _____
at noon.

13. She (to frighten) _____ by

the snake.

14. The suspect (to interrogate) _____ by
the policeman.

15. The tram (to suspend) _____ at
night.

16. The ferry (to delay) _____ because
of the storm.

17. The sportsman (to hit) _____ on
the playing field.

18. The first prize in the lottery (to win) _____ by
a child.

19. The film (to shoot) _____ in
England.

20. The tourists (to take) _____ to
visit the Tate Gallery.

EXERCISE 2.

Re-write the following sentences in the correct passive form.

e.g. Mr. White teaches maths..

Maths. is taught by Mr. White.

1. His parents took him to the museum.

2. The train station opens at 6 o'clock every morning.

3. The baker makes fabulous chocolate cakes.

4. The guide always gives a map to the tourists.

5. S. King wrote Dolores Clairbone.

6. The police asked each witness what happened.

7. The jury judges suspected criminals.

8. Janet always finds her cat under her bed.

9. Someone told him to go to Nice on holiday.

10. Scientists find cures for diseases.

11. The builders built more than 10,000 houses last year.

12. The tornado destroyed the bridge.

13. They offered a meal to the homeless man.

14. The students sent him a Christmas gift.

15. The postman leaves the mail in the mailbox.

16. Nobody drives on this road because it is dangerous.

EXERCISE 3.

Are the following sentences passive or active?

e.g. The boy dropped the ball. ACTIVE

The sky is covered by clouds. PASSIVE

1. Who was arrested? _____

2. The Smiths are out of the country. _____

3. The train has been delayed. _____

4. The tourists got lost in the park. _____

5. Today, buses are on strike. _____

6. You will burn your hands if you play with fire. _____

7. Will the entire workforce be punished for this? _____



8. I booked a single room for tonight. _____
9. The old paintings will be transported to the museum.

10. Yesterday, my English teacher helped me with some
exercises. _____
11. The baby-sitter takes care of Tom. _____
12. Tom and Mary are building a new house. _____
13. The luggage was found in the laundry room. _____
14. Letters of protest are being sent to the director.

15. The king will be crowned in the cathedral. _____
16. The town centre is hidden by Mount Rainer. _____
17. The baker bakes the bread every morning at 4 o'clock.

18. The children covered the cake with cream. _____

PRESENT PASSIVE

The passive verb is used to say what happens to the subject.

EXERCISE 1.

Put the verb into the simple present passive (subject + verb to be + past participle).

e.g. The porter opens the door every day.

The door is opened by the porter every day.

1. The school _____ (open) at 8 o'clock every morning.
2. That old airport _____ (close) on Mondays.
3. My husband is very important. He _____ (invite/always) to congresses.
4. Our receptionist _____ (call/often) by our students.

5. The kitchen _____ (usually/clean) by the chef in the evening.
6. The princess _____ (given) a royal welcome wherever she goes.
7. The bell _____ (ring) by the porter when a person arrives.
8. The exams _____ (prepare) by all the teachers.
9. The sky _____ (cover) by many clouds.
10. Governments _____ (vote) for by the electors.
11. Dinner _____ (serve) at 7.30 p.m..
12. My car _____ (service) by the mechanic who works down the road.
13. Flowers _____ (grow) especially for the Chelsea Flower Show.
14. Budget calculations _____ (make) before the end of April for the new fiscal year.
15. All the men in our office _____ (tell) to wear ties to work. It's obligatory.

16. Many people _____ (say) to believe in the new revolution.

17. Fiona _____ (write) to every day by her boyfriend!

18. Michelle _____ (buy) flowers by a mystery man.

PAST PASSIVE

EXERCISE 1.

Make sentences in the past passive tense using the prompts.

e.g. *My grandfather / raise / his grandmother.*

My grandfather was raised by his grandmother.

1. John / take care of / a baby-sitter.

2. The school / clean / a Chinese girl.

3. We / born / in India / but / we / bring up / in England.

4. Those dogs / look after / a dog-sitter.

5. Raul / bring up / a German nanny.

6. Dinner / make / by my husband.

EXERCISE 2.

Put the following sentences into the passive form.

e.g. My husband reserved a table for two yesterday.

A table for two was reserved by my husband yesterday.

1. My mother looked after my cat while I was on holiday.

2. The mechanic repaired my car in two days.

3. Pablo made all those cakes.

4. My tailor sewed all my clothes.

5. Frank Sinatra sang that song beautifully.

6. The receptionist contacted all the people on the waiting list.

7. The teacher corrected the students' exercises.

8. My grandma brought up my little brothers.

9. Peter signed two blank cheques.

PRESENT PERFECT ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

EXERCISE 1.

Transform the following sentences into the passive form.

e.g. We have baked the bread

The bread has been baked

1. The mechanical has repaired my car.

2. The children have broken the window.

3. Janet has cooked a delicious cake.

4. Terrorists have killed a policeman.



5. A lion has attacked a tourist in the zoo.

6. I have sent my luggage to USA.

7. Meg and Julie have organised a party for my birthday.

8. The criminals have destroyed all the illegal documents.

9. Mercedes has produced a new car for sale.

10. They haven't used the machine for ages.

11. They have stolen my car from the garage.

12. She has already given the message to me.

PAST CONTINUOUS PASSIVE

EXERCISE 1.

Put the following sentences into the past continuous passive.

Was/were being + participle.

Example:

Someone was looking at her.

She was being looked at by someone.

1. Someone was cleaning my shoes and brushing my suit.

2. While he was abroad the local hospital was looking after him.

3. The cat was catching a lot of mice.

4. Claudia Schiffer was wearing a red dress.

5. John was taking care of his grandmother while his wife was looking after their children.

EXERCISE 2

Re-write the following sentences in the active voice.

Example:

The floor was being cleaned.

Someone was cleaning the floor.

1. The results were being published by the newspaper.

2. The paintings were exhibited by the organisers till the end of the month.

3. The old theatre was being pulled down by the local council.

4. The old house was being guarded by the police to prevent it from being burgled.

5. It was being said that too much money was being spent by his wife.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS PASSIVE

EXERCISE 1.

Fill in the gaps with one of the following verbs:

to repair *to interview* *to tell*
to follow

E.g. I think, I'm being spied on! (to spy)

1. "Help! Please, help me! There's a man! I _____!"

2. "Where are Mary and Laura?"

"They're in the boss' office. They _____ about the results of yesterday's meeting".

3. "It's 15:00 o' clock, he _____ in this exact moment"

4. “Hi dear! I’m at the garage, my car broke down this morning but now _____, it will be ready for tonight, don’t worry! We’re going to the lake”

EXERCISE 2.

Choose between active or passive form of the following verbs.

<i>to play</i>	<i>to say</i>	<i>to give</i>	<i>to connect</i>
<i>to annoy</i>	<i>to open</i>	<i>to lie</i>	<i>to cut</i>

1. “She is at the hairdresser’s, she _____ her hair _____.”
2. “Finally, the telephone line _____!”
3. “It’s 9:00 o’clock another Opening school _____.
In Bologna right now!”

4. In the classroom the students _____ examples
by the teacher.

5. I _____ in the park and I
_____ by mosquitoes.

6. "Listen! My favourite song _____ on the radio"

PASSIVE TENSES REVIEW

EXERCISE 1.

Write sentences using the passive tenses.

e.g. *The director solved the problem yesterday.*

The problem was solved by the director yesterday.

1. My friend phoned while I was making a cake.

1. My boss gave me a new task.

2. Your parents have already invited their friends.

3. Will the children eat the cake?

4. Shakespeare wrote “The Tempest”.

5. My brother had already repaired the car when I arrived.

EXERCISE 2.

Write sentences using the passive voice.

e.g. The director told us to solve the problem.

We were told by the director to solve the problem.

1. People think that newspapers tell the truth.

2. .My boss have already told me about the new task.

3. We always consider any different situation.

4. Our boss is telling them about our meeting.

5. My friends had already told you about the party when I arrived.

6. We are telling the students to do their exercises.

EXERCISE 3

Change the following active sentences into the passive using the following phrases:

*known / said / is claimed to be / believed /
Thought / Considered etc..*

e.g. People say that he was a millionaire until he lost it all at the casino.

It is said that he was a millionaire until he lost it all at the casino.

1. Doctors claim that if you drink two glasses of red wine a day, you may live longer.

It

.....

2. They believe that the notorious cat burglar is a woman.

The notorious

.....

3. Scientist expect global warming to worsen in the coming years.

Global.....

.....

4. Everybody knows that Maradona handled the ball in the world cup against England.

It.....

.....

5. Police have reported that the level of violent crime is increasing.

It.....

.....

6. Many people believe that the Roman Catholic church is losing members.

The Roman

.....

7. Reports claim that by 2020 over half of the world's population will be computer literate.

It.....

.....

8. They say that the number of women in what used to be considered men's jobs, is higher than ever.

The number

.....

EXERCISE 4

As a quick review of the passive voice, complete the following sentences using the appropriate verbs in their correct form.

<i>Give</i>	<i>Suspend</i>	
<i>Assassinate</i>	<i>Bring up</i>	<i>See</i>
	<i>Steal</i>	

e.g. *JFK..... by Lee Oswald.*

JFK was assassinated by Lee Oswald

1. I.....by my grandparents after my parents died.

2. Last week I was in the Supermarket and my bag from my trolley. It was so embarrassing because I couldn't pay for my food!

3. The court case.....due to a lack of sufficient evidence.

4. The actor.....a knighthood by the queen for his outstanding achievement in the movie industry.

5. It is claimed that Elvis is still alive and..... on many occasions.