

THE PASSIVE

Rewrite the underlined text (1-12) in the passive. Decide whether you need to include the agent. Which sentence can be written in two different ways?

It was called 'The Great Mortality', but today ¹we know it as the Black Death. In 1348, ²rats brought the plague from Asia to Europe. ³The disease killed millions of people. ⁴Bad weather had ruined crops for years and ⁵this had left thousands hungry. ⁶Frightened people were filling the cities and, living so close together, ⁷coughs and sneezes quickly infected them. ⁸This terrible event still fascinates us. ⁹Journalists warn us about deadly diseases and ¹⁰ever-increasing air travel isn't helping the situation. For now, ¹¹antibiotics give us some protection, but ¹²can they save us from a future plague?

1 Complete the sentences with the verb in brackets in the correct passive form.

- 1 The band's new song (not / release) until next month.
- 2 A cure for cancer (not / discover) yet.
- 3 Those trees (plant) by my grandfather last year.
- 4 Hans (show) around the college this morning.
- 5 When the onions are cooked, they (add) to the sauce.
- 6 Technology (improve) all the time.
- 7 The Colosseum (build) by the Romans over ten years.
- 8 We (tell) their decision in a few days' time.

Where possible, give TWO versions of the following sentences in the passive.

- 1 My brother lent me the money for the ticket.
- 2 They'll allow us ten minutes to answer the questions.
- 3 A nurse has given the patient some medicine.
- 4 Your uncle is taking your parents to the airport now.
- 5 They didn't give us any information about the strike.
- 6 A local man showed them the way to the river.
- 7 No one will forgive him if he keeps on lying.