

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 'we 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.