

THE PASSIVE VOICE

How do we use the passive voice? Let's practise

Choose and complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verbs.



The phone call by the receptionist.
a-was answer b-is answered c- are answered



They by the waitresses.
a-will served b-was served c.are served



Sushi in Japan
a- Is eaten b- was ate c-are eat



Apples in summer
a-is picked up b-were pick up c. are picked up

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1 Complete the text with the present simple passive.

A medal ceremony
_____ *is held* _____ (hold)
at the end of each Olympic
event. The medals

(1) _____
(give) out by a member of
the International Olympic
Committee. The flags of the
three medallists

(2) _____ (raise)
and the national anthem of
the gold medallist

(3) _____ (play).
The national anthems of the silver and bronze
medallists (4) _____ (not play).

The men's marathon (5) _____
(usually hold) on the morning of the last day of
the Olympics. The medals for this event

(6) _____ (not usually present) until
the evening, during the closing ceremony.



2 Complete the text with the past simple passive.

Tennis wasn't always played (not always play) in the way that we know it today. A kind of tennis game (1) _____ (invent) by European monks in the 11th or 12th century. Rackets (2) _____ (not create) until the 14th century. To begin with, the ball (3) _____ (hit) with the hand. The tennis ball (4) _____ (also develop) over many years. The first tennis balls (5) _____ (make) of wood. In France, the game (6) _____ (adopt) by the royal family. It (7) _____ (not call) tennis to begin with. It (8) _____ (call) *jeu de paume* between the 16th and 18th centuries because it (9) _____ (originally play) with the palm of the hand (*paume* in French). The person serving the ball shouted, 'Tenez!' which meant 'Pay attention!' Because of this, the game (10) _____ (give) the name 'tennis'.

3 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box. Use the negative form of the present simple passive or past simple passive.

ask hold hurt play take wear

- The Winter Olympics weren't held in Beijing in 2010. They were held in Vancouver.
- 1 Luckily the rider _____ very badly when he fell off his horse.
 - 2 People only want to know about Beckham's private life. He _____ about football very much.
 - 3 These are recent photos of the retired footballer. They _____ when he was still on the team.
 - 4 Rugby is a bit like American football but helmets _____ in rugby.
 - 5 In England, cricket _____ in the winter. The season starts in April.

4 Rewrite the sentences using the present simple passive or past simple passive. Add *by* if necessary.



WIMBLEDON FACT FILE

At Wimbledon, they play tennis on grass courts.

At Wimbledon, tennis is played on grass courts.

- 1 They held the first Wimbledon tennis tournament in 1877.

- 2 Spencer Gore won the men's championship that year.

- 3 15-year-old Lottie Dod won the women's championship in 1887.

- 4 Before 1986, they used white tennis balls at Wimbledon.

- 5 People see yellow balls more clearly on television.

- 6 Every year, they choose 250 pupils from local schools to become ball boys and girls.

- 7 They didn't introduce ball girls until 1977.
