

6B

Grammar

The passive

I can identify and use different forms of the passive.

1 Choose the correct options (a–c) to complete the text.

Most of us take antibiotics for granted. They ¹ to treat many illnesses caused by bacteria, and until now, patients ² them successfully to prevent infection following minor surgery and routine operations. Now, though, the public ³ that some bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics, and unless action ⁴ soon, we could be 'back to the dark ages' when people ⁵ by common illnesses on a regular basis. Experts explain that in a large group of bacteria, there may be some which ⁶ by antibiotics; when these bacteria survive and reproduce, they increase the number of resistant bacteria to dangerous levels. Now scientists are raising concerns about a possible outbreak of a resistant infection. They predict that two in every five people who are affected by a resistant infection ⁷.



- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 a were used | b are used | c had been used |
| 2 a have been given | b are being given | c will be given |
| 3 a were being warned | b are warned | c are being warned |
| 4 a will be taken | b is taken | c has been taken |
| 5 a were killed | b had been killed | c have been killed |
| 6 a are destroyed | b aren't destroyed | c weren't destroyed |
| 7 a have been killed | b are killed | c will be killed |

2 Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verbs in brackets.

- Antibiotics _____ (prescribe) by doctors to fight disease for many years.
- What would our lives be like if X-ray machines _____ (not invent)?
- Scientists believe that a vaccine to prevent malaria _____ (develop) soon.
- In the past, many patients _____ (infect) each year in dirty hospitals.
- Natural plant remedies for illnesses _____ (discover) all the time.
- Anaesthetics _____ (not use) in operations until the 19th century.

3 Rewrite each sentence in two ways, using the underlined words as the subjects and leaving out the agent.

- The teacher gave each student a book.
Each student was given a book.
A book was given to each student.
- They have offered both of us a place at university.

- Mum cooked me a special dinner last night.

- She's lending the money to Anna.

- My best friend has just sent me a text message.

- Do you think they'll give him the job?

4 Complete the text with the correct passive form of the verbs below.

bite cause give improve know raise

Louis Pasteur ¹ _____ as the scientist who proved 'germ theory' after he discovered that many illnesses ² _____ by tiny organisms. He ³ _____ in France, and it was there that farmers asked the scientist to investigate why their wine turned sour; Pasteur discovered that heating the wine destroyed the harmful bacteria which made the wine go off. He later focused on human medicine. A woman took her son to Pasteur because the boy ⁴ _____ by a dog suffering from rabies; Pasteur cured him in the first-known attempt at vaccination, a process in which a person ⁵ _____ a small amount of a dead or weak germ, so that they produce antibodies that fight the disease. Medicine ⁶ _____ hugely thanks to Pasteur, as vaccination prevents millions of deaths every year.

5 Complete the second sentence using the correct passive tense so that it means the same as the first.

- I definitely didn't break the laptop.
The laptop _____.
- Has someone invited Jan to the cinema?
Has _____ to the cinema?
- They hadn't told us about the school trip.
We _____ the school trip.
- Our teacher will explain the answers next week.
The answers _____ our teacher next week.
- They were showing students around the museum.
Students _____ around the museum.
- The government is advising people not to travel there.
People _____ travel there.