

Social Problems in Our Neighborhoods

Passive with Prepositions + Infinitive Clauses and Phrases

Social Problems and Possible Solutions

Many neighborhoods face social problems that affect people's quality of life. **Some streets are being damaged by heavy traffic**, and **public spaces are being contaminated by garbage**. In **some areas, parks are not being maintained properly**, and **community centers have been closed** because of high maintenance costs.

Unemployment is another serious problem. **Many people have been affected by a lack of job opportunities**, and **some families have been forced** into poverty because of financial difficulties.

In addition, **public parks and playgrounds are being damaged by vandalism**, and **some roads are not being repaired due to a lack of funding**. These problems can make neighborhoods less safe and less pleasant for residents.

However, several solutions can be implemented to improve these situations. **One way to reduce pollution is to organize** community cleaning campaigns. **Another way to improve security is to install more streetlights**. **The best way to reduce unemployment is to** create more job opportunities and offer professional training.

By taking action, communities can create cleaner, safer, and more welcoming places to live.

1. Passive with Prepositions

We use the passive voice when the action or its result is more important than the person who performs it.

A. Present Continuous Passive: We use it to describe actions that are happening now.

Form: am / is / are + being + past participle

Active Voice	Passive Voice
People are damaging the park.	The park is being damaged.
Workers are repairing the roads.	The roads are being repaired.
People are contaminating the streets.	The streets are being contaminated.

B. Present Perfect Passive: We use it to describe actions that have been completed or have consequences in the present.

Form: has / have + been + past participle

Active Voice	Passive Voice
The authorities have closed the community center.	The community center has been closed.
People have damaged the playground.	The playground has been damaged.
Pollution has affected the neighborhood.	The neighborhood has been affected.

Common Prepositions

Preposition	Use	Example
By	Indicates the agent or cause	The park was damaged by vandals.
Because of	Indicates a reason	The center has been closed because of high costs.
Due to	Indicates a reason	The roads are being repaired due to heavy traffic.
As a result of	Indicates a cause or consequence	The streets are being flooded as a result of heavy rain.

2. Infinitive Clauses and Phrases

Form: to + base form of the verb

We use infinitive clauses and phrases to express purposes, goals, and possible solutions.

Common expressions: One way to... / Another way to... / The best way to... / A good way to... / The most effective way to...

Function	Example
Expressing a solution	One way to reduce pollution is to organize cleaning campaigns.
Expressing a purpose	Residents organize activities to improve their neighborhood.
Expressing a recommendation	The best way to improve security is to install more streetlights.

GRAMMAR EXERCISES

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences using the present continuous passive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The streets _____ by local volunteers. (clean)
2. The roads _____ because of heavy traffic. (repair)
3. The community park _____ by vandals. (damage)
4. New streetlights _____ by the local government. (install)
5. The public spaces _____ by construction work. (affect)
6. The community center _____ by local workers. (renovate)

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using the present perfect passive and the correct preposition from the box.

WORD BOX: by – because of – due to – as a result of

1. The community center has been closed _____ high maintenance costs.
2. The playground has been damaged _____ vandals.
3. Several roads have been blocked _____ heavy rain.
4. The public park has been affected _____ pollution.
5. The sports facilities have been closed _____ a lack of funding.
6. The neighborhood has been affected _____ the construction work.

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences with the correct infinitive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. One way to reduce pollution is _____ more trees. (plant)
2. The best way to improve security is _____ more streetlights. (install)
3. Another way to help unemployed people is _____ free training courses. (offer)
4. A good way to keep the neighborhood clean is _____ public cleaning campaigns. (organize)
5. The most effective way to reduce crime is _____ more activities for young people. (create)
6. One way to improve public spaces is _____ the parks regularly. (maintain)