7.2 Grammar

The passive

GRAMMAR The passive

Present Simple
The game is designed for groups of 2–6.
Prizes are given out to the winners at the end.

Past Simple
The game was created by experts.
We were invited to an escape room recently.

Present Perfect
This new room has already been visited by hundreds of players.
Thousands of customers have been challenged by their games.

Modal verbs
The game must be finished in one hour.
It can't be won without teamwork.
Everyone should be heard.

1 ● Complete the sentences with the passive form of the verbs in brackets.

1 Billions of emails *are sent* every day. (send – Present Simple)
2 Mobile phones _____ for years. (use – Present Perfect)
3 The message _____ by Adam. (not write – Past Simple)
4 Mobile phones _____ in class. (turn off – must)
5 Ball games _____ here. (play – can't)
6 My stolen bike _____ yet. (not find – Present Perfect)

2 ●● Choose the correct option.

Last Tuesday, our class [1] *was sent* / *has been sent* to a workshop on improving our communication skills. We were told [2] *by* / *for* our teachers that it would be fun. They were right! We played several games in pairs and small groups. These are special games – they [3] *can be designed* / *have been designed* to make us communicate without speaking. They must [4] *be played* / *been played* using gestures or body language only. At the end we [5] *have been asked* / *were asked* what we thought of the workshop, and I gave it 10/10.']. I like it when we [6] *were given* / *are given* workshops like this at school. It makes the day much more interesting!

3 ●● Rewrite the sentences in the passive.

1 They speak English in India.
English is spoken in India.
2 They make many mobile phones in China.
_____
3 They haven't taught Latin in our school for years.
_____
4 You can show your pictures on the big screen.
_____
5 You must write your answers on this form.
_____
6 They haven't made any good films this year.
_____

4 ●●● Complete the article with the passive form of the verbs in brackets.

Teaching communication skills

What [1] *can be done* (can/do) to teach communication skills in school? The question [2] _____ (answer) by one school in the north of England. At St Andrew's School, teachers believe that students [3] _____ (must/teach) how to communicate properly. They have special classes where students [4] _____ (show) how to introduce themselves, how to give presentations and the importance of eye contact. These classes started last year, when teachers noticed some students were having difficulties in speaking exams. Marks [5] _____ (lose) in exams because of communication problems.
Since then, a number of additional workshops [6] _____ (design) to help students practise these communication skills. One of the activities the pupils [7] _____ (give) is to prepare a short presentation. Students [8] _____ (record) by their partner using a mobile phone. The phones [9] _____ (swap) and they give each other feedback. Students find it useful when they get feedback from another student, rather than the teacher or the whole class, because it creates a 'safe' environment.

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