

PASSIVES: PART I

by Julian Conde

I. Write T (true) or F (false).

1. ___ Intransitive verbs, such as **died**, can be used in the passive voice as long as you include the agent.
2. ___ To form a negative passive sentence, the word **not** should be placed after the first verb (e.g., Cooper has not been caught).
3. ___ In a passive sentence, the subject of the active sentence becomes the **agent** and is usually preceded by the preposition by.
4. ___ The **get-passive** is more common in formal writing than the **be-passive**.
5. ___ You should use a by phrase when you want to focus on the result of an action rather than the person who performed it.
6. ___ Both direct objects and indirect objects from an active sentence can become the subject of a passive sentence.
7. ___ To form the past passive with a modal, you use the structure: **modal + have been + past participle**.
8. ___ The passive causative is used to describe services or activities that people arrange for someone else to do.
9. ___ The sentence **I got the work done by noon** is an example of the passive causative meaning someone else did the work.
10. ___ The **get-passive** should only be used with action verbs, not non-action (stative) verbs.

II Choose the best answer.

In which of the following sentences is the passive voice used incorrectly?

- A) The package was delivered this morning.
- B) The accident was happened at midnight.
- C) The suspects are being questioned by the detective.

What is the difference between these two sentences?

1. They had the grass cut.
2. They had cut the grass.

- A) Sentence 1 is the passive causative (someone else did it); Sentence 2 is the past perfect (they did it themselves).
- B) Sentence 1 means they finished the work themselves; Sentence 2 means someone else did it.
- C) Both sentences have the exact same meaning but use different grammar structures.

