

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Task 1. Fill in each space using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

Example: The police report that the missing person _____ (find).

The police report that the missing person *has been found*.

- 1 The news _____ every day from 6am to midnight. (broadcast)
- 2 At this very moment the suspect _____ by the police. (interview)
- 3 And now a newsflash. The President _____ with committing perjury. (charge)
- 4 A new security system _____ in all our offices in the next few weeks. (install)
- 5 By November 30 a new government _____ (elect).
- 6 There must be a mistake: the hotel bill _____ by my wife. (pay)
- 7 When we got home, we realised the house _____. (burglary)
- 8 The building _____ when a second bomb went off. (evacuate)
- 9 The Government says tax reforms _____ in the new year. (introduce)
- 10 Newspapers in some countries _____ in kiosks as well as shops. (sell)

Task 2. Rewrite these sentences in the passive.

1 We do not add any preservatives to our products.

Preservatives _____ to our products.

2 The Government is now building a lot of new schools in the provinces.

A lot of _____ in the provinces.

3. The police have just arrested him on suspicion of murder.

_____ on suspicion of murder.

4 Will they publish her new book next month?

_____ next month?

5 They will have completed the new motorway by Christmas.

The _____ by Christmas.

6 We haven't cleaned the house for weeks.

The house _____ for weeks.

7 The company cut the water off because Mr and Mrs Dixon hadn't paid their bill.

_____ because they hadn't paid their bill.

8 They are going to open the new supermarket next week.

The _____ next week.

9 They couldn't use the car because the garage was servicing it.

The _____ because _____.

10 They publish a lot of books on information technology.

A lot of books _____ on information technology.

Task 3. Fill in the spaces in this text. Use a verb in the list and an appropriate form of the passive. The first is given as an example.

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| produce | interview (x2) | design | renovate | award | base |
| build | consider (x2) | show | equip | provide | close |
| visit | | | | | |

A REPORT

This report *has been produced*, at the request of the Hotel and Catering Association. The survey on which the report _____ (1) was carried out between March 25 and March 30, 1999. Twenty hotel managers _____ (2) for the purposes of this report. The majority of the hotels which _____ (3) (all in the Brighton area) _____ (4) in the last twenty years and _____ (5) to meet the needs of the modern tourist. One hotel which _____ (6) unacceptable by the Association _____ (7) at the end of the tourist season. Some of the older ones _____ (8) recently and also meet the highest standards. This _____ (9) by the fact that all the hotels _____ (10) with modern facilities, from swimming pools to satellite TV. In addition, the usual services _____ (11) (room service, laundry service) and the restaurant and bar service _____ (12) satisfactory in most cases. Most of the hotel staff who _____ (13) were highly qualified or experienced. Seventy-five per cent of the hotels in this report _____ (14) a three or four star rating by the tourist board.

Task 4. Rewrite the following active sentences using two passive forms, making the underlined words the subject. Omit the agent if it is not necessary.

Example: The company sent him a letter. *He was sent a letter by the company.*

A letter was sent to him by the company.

1 They've just sent me a whole lot of junk mail.

2 The Credit Bank lent me two thousand pounds in 1999.

3 They gave each of the children a bottle of milk every day.

4 They showed us the sights of the city.

5 They will pay the workers £50 every Friday.

6 Someone had promised the children more food.

7 The magician told them the secret.

8 They offered her the job.

9 One of his uncles had taught him maths.

10 Someone gave the animal charity a lot of money.

Task 5. Match a first part (1-10) with a second part (a-j). Use all the parts.

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 A decision to strike was taken | a with a penknife. |
| 2 This church was designed | b by beautiful grounds. |
| 3 I was shocked | c by a hunter with a rifle. |
| 4 He was shot | d by some of the workers. |
| 5 He had been stabbed | e by Christopher Wren. |
| 6 His trousers were completely covered | f with a stick. |
| 7 The house was surrounded | g by her rude behaviour. |
| 8 Her bedroom was covered | h by a priest in a tiny little church. |
| 9 They were married | i with posters of her favourite singers. |
| 10 He used to be beaten | j in oil. |

Task 6. Complete the second sentence so that it is as similar in meaning as possible to the first sentence, using the word given. This word must not be changed. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

Example: There was bitter opposition to the proposal. **opposed**

The proposal *was bitterly opposed*.

1 They say the country is on the verge of civil war. **said**

The country _____ on the verge of civil war.

2 People thought the President was ill. **be**

The President _____ ill.

3 People have suggested that you could be on the committee. **put**

Your name _____ for the committee.

4 People believe he escaped with the money. **run**

He is _____ off with the money.

5 They thought he was the best actor for the part. **considered**

He _____ the best actor for the part.

6 People always thought she was very good at maths, but she made some basic mistakes.

supposed

She _____ very good at maths, but she made some basic mistakes.

7 The directors decided to discuss the matter at the next meeting. **agreed**

It _____ would discuss the matter at the next meeting.

8 Two of the men walking home accepted our offer of a lift. **up**

Our offer of a lift _____ two of the men walking home.

9 Everything I know about art I learnt from Mrs Robinson. **was**

I _____ about art by Mrs Robinson.

10 The court ordered him to pay a fine of £100. **was**

He _____ a fine of £100 by the court.

Task 7. Complete the second sentence in these exchanges using the verb in brackets and any other words given. Use the causative form with *have* or *get*

Example: A: Your hair looks nice! - B: Thanks. I've _____. (**cut**)

B: Thanks. I've just *had it cut*.

1 A: I'm finding it difficult to read small print nowadays! – B: Why don't you go and

_____ (**eyes, test**)

2. A: What a lovely dress - where did you buy it? – B: I didn't. I _____ by the dressmaker down the road. (**make**)

3 A: My car's been making some funny noises just lately. – B: You should _____. (**service**)

4 A: Your hair looks different! What have you done to it? - B: I _____, that's all! (**just, cut**)

5 A: This house is freezing. - B: Yes, we need _____. (**central heating; install**)

6 A: The living room looks lovely. - B: I'm glad you like it. We've _____? (**just; redecorate**)

7 A: Why aren't you wearing your watch? - B: I _____ at the moment. (**repair**)

8 A: Oops! Sorry, I've spilt some wine on your trousers? - B: Don't worry. I was going to _____ anyway. (**clean**)

9 A: That tree is blocking the view from my front window. - B: Well, you don't expect me _____, do you? (**cut down**)

10 A: I've got a terrible toothache. - B: Well, why don't you go and _____? (**that cavity; fill**)

Task 8. Complete each space in this text with a suitable word. *The first (0) is given as an example.*

ONE OF THOSE DAYS

It's been one of those days and it isn't over yet. First of all, I had to take the car to the garage to have the brakes repaired (0). The car was in a bad enough state, but we _____ (1) had it damaged even more by some idiot as we were waiting at the traffic lights the other day. He bumped into the back of the car and we told him he would have to pay to _____ (2) the car _____ (3) and he said he would _____ (4) it paid for by his insurance company. I certainly hope he does. The mechanic told me I could've _____ (5) myself killed driving the car and that we should've _____ (6) the brakes checked months ago.

I left the car at the garage, then went straight to the hairdresser to have my hair _____. (7). I wanted to have _____ (8) cut really short, so it took ages. After that, I had to take Bill's suit to the dry-cleaner's to _____ (9) it cleaned after he had had wine _____ (10) over it at the party last night. Next, I had to go to the supermarket. When I had finished, my bags were so heavy I had to _____ (11) them delivered to my house - and that cost more money. And the day isn't half over yet.

I've still got to have my photograph _____ (12) for a new passport - my old one _____ (13) stolen when we had our house _____ (14) a few months back. What a life! Things can't get worse, can they?

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