

THE PASSIVE VOICE



Example

Peninsula Bank **was founded** in 1924. It has a reputation of being the most secure bank in New York City, but last night, it **was robbed**. Fifty million dollars **were emptied** from the vault at the bank's headquarters. The thieves **have not been caught**, and there's an investigation presently **being undertaken**.

Sadly, the windows of the historical building **were broken** during the robbery, and the bank will remain closed until further notice. If you witnessed the robbery, or have information relevant to the investigation, contact the Police Department as soon as possible. Any detail, no matter how small, **will be appreciated**.

Questions:

When was the bank robbed?

- a) *It's undefined.*
- b) *Yesterday night.*
- c) *Today, early in the morning.*

What was the reputation of Peninsula bank like before it was robbed?

- a) *It was considered as secure as all other banks.*
- b) *It was considered more secure than other banks.*
- c) *It was considered insecure, and had been robbed before.*

Who is undertaking the investigation?

- a) *The Police Department.*
- b) *Detective Jones.*
- c) *The owner of the bank.*

When will the bank reopen?

- a) *When the windows are fixed.*
- b) *It's undefined*
- c) *When the investigation finalizes.*

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Exercise:

Turn the passive sentences into active sentences:

Pietra was fired by her boss.

Pietra's boss fired her. _____

Those skyscrapers were built by The Happy Building Company.

The students at School of Heroes are taught to fly by the flying instructor.

The kids were caught fooling around in the playground by the teacher.

Turn the active sentences into passive sentences:

The thieves have stolen the money.

The money has been stolen by the thieves _____

Leonardo Da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa

Charles Darwin wrote The Origin Of Species.

The mechanic will fix the squeaky elevator.

The people are abandoning the ship.
