PASSIVE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

1   Active vs Passive. Underline the correct alternative.

I never used to like history lessons at school. The teacher never **1** *was brought/brought* history to life and it was really boring. We **2** *were always told/ always told* to just read out long passages from textbooks to the class. You never **3** *were known/knew* when it was going to be your turn and then, suddenly, you **4** *were chosen/chose* by the teacher to read the next paragraph. Since then, I **5** *'ve been discovered/ 've discovered* that history is actually really interesting. I **6** *'ve been shown/'ve shown* some really interesting documentaries over the years by friends, which have really got me interested. At the moment I **7** *'m being done/I'm doing* a course on twentieth century history, and we **8** *'ve been given/'ve given* various topics to research and present to the class. It's absolutely fascinating, and next week I **9** *'ll be given/I'll give* the opportunity to present what I found out. I hope children **10** *are taught/teach* history in a similar way at school these days.

Hadrian's Wall

2   Fill the gaps with the correct tenses (active or passive voice).

In the year 122 AD, the Roman Emperor Hadrian 1_____ (visit) his provinces in Britain. On his visit, the Roman soldiers told him that Pictish tribes from Britain's north 2_____ (attack) them. So Hadrian 3_____ (give) the order to build a protective wall across one of the narrowest parts of the country. After 6 years of hard work, the Wall 4_____ (finish) in 128. It 5_____ (be) 117 kilometres long and about 4 metres high. The Wall 6_____ (guard) by 15,000 Roman soldiers. Every 8 kilometres there was a large fort in which up to 1,000 soldiers 7_____ (find) shelter. The soldiers watched over the frontier to the north and checked the people who 8_____ (want) to enter or leave Roman Britain. In order to pass through the Wall, people had to go to one of the small forts that 9_____ (serve) as gateways. Those forts were called milecastles because the distance from one fort to another 10_____ (be) one Roman mile (about 1,500 metres). Between the milecastles there were two turrets from which the soldiers 11_____ (guard) the Wall. If the Wall was attacked by enemies, the soldiers at the turrets ran to the nearest milecastle for help or lit a fire that 12_____ (see) by the soldiers in the milecastle.

In 383 Hadrian's Wall 13_____ (abandon). Today Hadrian's Wall 14_____ (be) the most popular tourist attraction in northern England. In 1987, it 15_____ (become) a UNESCO World Heritage Site.