

## 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a Many people have been died because of this disease.  
 b Many people have died because of this disease.

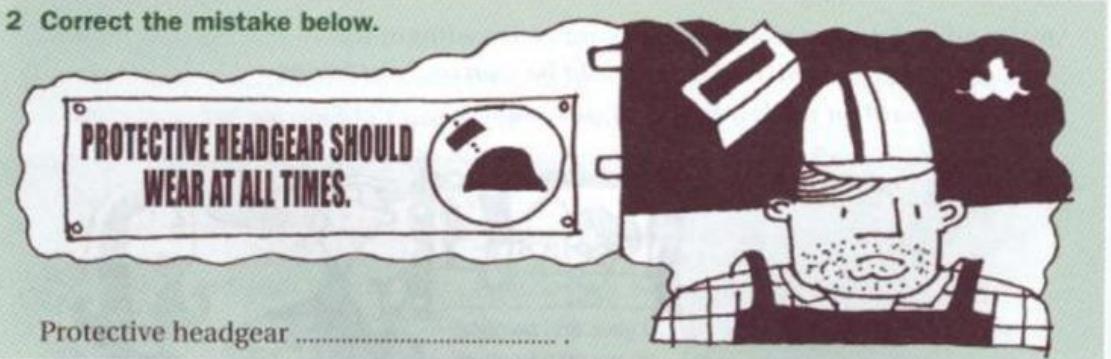
2 a This data took from 1982 and 1992.  
 b This data was taken from 1982 and 1992.

With active verbs we usually use the following order: subject + verb + object. We use the passive when we want to put the object of the verb first: object + verb. Compare:  
*The teacher told the students to close their books.* = active (subject + verb + object)  
*The students were told to close their books.* = passive (object + verb)

We use the passive:

- when we want to make the object the focus of the sentence: *The books were sold for a small profit at the school.* (the focus is on the books, not the person selling them)
- ★ Note that the verb (*were*) agrees with the object (*the books*).
- when the context tells us who carried out the action: *A law was introduced to help protect people in this situation.* (we know that the government did this)
- when it is not important who carried out the action: *In the factory, the shoes are cleaned and packed into boxes ready for sale.* (we do not need to know who does this)
- ★ Note that we can include the 'subject' by adding *by* + the person/group: *A lot of waste materials could be recycled by large manufacturers.*

## 2 Correct the mistake below.



Protective headgear .....

## 1 Change the following sentences from active to passive. You will not need to change the tense. You will need to decide when to leave out the subject.

- 1 A factory worker checks each box for quality. *Each box* .....
- 2 The government does not permit children under 16 to work. *Children* .....
- 3 The washing machine is washing your clothes at the moment. *Your clothes* .....
- 4 A mechanic will repair your car this afternoon. *Your car* .....
- 5 The agent has sold our house at last. *Our house* .....
- 6 Something tore the back of my coat. *The back of my coat* .....
- 7 The employer pays the staff more for working at the weekend. *The staff* .....
- 8 Burning tyres give off highly toxic chemicals. *Highly toxic chemicals* .....