

PASSIVE VOICE

TO BE (active verb tense) + PAST PARTICIPLE (of the main verb)

PRESENT SIMPLE (am/is/are +PP)

-People speak English in Australia.

*English is spoken in Australia.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS (am being/is being/are being +PP)

-They are building a garage.

*A garage is being built.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE (have been/has been +PP)

-Mary has just bought a ticket.

*A ticket has just been bought by Mary.

PAST SIMPLE (was/were +PP)

-Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet*.

**Hamlet* was written by Shakespeare.

PAST CONTINUOUS (was being/were being +PP)

-The police were watching the house.

*The house was being watched by the police.

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE (had been+ PP)

-He had read the book.

*The book had been read.

MODALS/ GOING TO/ USED TO +BE+PAST PARTICIPLE

-He has to do it. * It has to be done.

-We used to eat a lot of sweets. * A lot of sweets used to be eaten.

-Peter will certainly see that film. * That film will certainly be seen by Peter.

-Students should not wear uniforms. *Uniforms should not be worn by students.

-Are you going to sell the house? * Is the house going to be sold?

Rewrite the sentences and make them passive.

1. They are serving breakfast in the dining room.

2. They play rugby in all the Commonwealth countries.

3. You must clean your suit for the ceremony.

4. The authorities are opening the town health centre next week.

5. Nobody can beat Liverpool.

6. After John had repaired the car, he sold it.

7. Steven King wrote the book.

8. You should send the email today.

9. The doctor must examine you again.

10. The company has produced cars since the beginning of the century.

11. The Egyptians buried pharaohs in pyramids.

12. They will meet you at the train station.

13. Has everyone read the instructions?

_____?

14. The nurse reads the newspaper to the old man every day.

15. They must have left the documents behind.

Rewrite the sentences and make them passive.

1. Families in poor countries often force their children to work.

2. They have offered him a good job.

3. They should have redecorated the house before Christmas.

4. They will repair my car by next week.

5. People say that he is a good surfer.

6. They have treated the prisoners badly for years.

7. You haven't answered to my question yet.

8. We had to call the ambulance.

9. In Asia children do a lot of the work.

10. You cannot reach this village by train.

11. Settlers built this town in 1802.

12. Committee members handed out invitations for the meeting.

13. You must park your car in the garage.

14. They showed us the most important paintings in the gallery.

15. They speak Spanish here.

Change the sentences to passive voice.

1. They introduced me to her husband
2. Someone sold this old hat to my wife.
3. They are pushing the car.
4. Someone broke into my office.
5. They were talking about you.
6. You ought to clean the desk.
7. The headmaster will contact you.
8. Nobody has given out the news yet.
9. Didn't she tell you the truth?
10. The thieves had stolen all the gold.
11. The students are using the computers right now.
12. They often mistreat the patients here.
13. Edison invented the gramophone.
14. Everybody admired your last book.
15. Someone is knocking at the door.
16. They might take the old man to the hospital.
17. They could have kicked her out of the restaurant.
18. We will have to give them more attention.
19. The cat ate the sandwich.
20. They told us that the water is clean.
21. Millions of fans will see the final game tomorrow.
22. They told us to leave the room.
23. You should review the lessons before the test.
24. The doctors have made the announcements over the loudspeakers.
25. The publishers are reading the book.

The Passive Voice in Questions Exercise

Why | hasn't | the washing-up | been done?

Change the sentences from the active to the passive.

- 1 Do they make cars in Korea?
..... ?
- 2 Do the hounds kill the fox?
..... ?
- 3 Will The King inaugurate the new bridge?
..... ?
- 4 Is a doctor going to examine you?
..... ?
- 5 Did the bull kill the matador?
..... ?
- 6 Did they catch the thief?
..... ?
- 7 When did they hijack the plane?
..... ?
- 8 How did your host family treat you?
..... ?
- 9 Have the police found the body?
..... ?
- 10 Has anyone cleaned the oven yet?
..... ?
- 11 Why has the government banned the film?
..... ?
- 12 Would Tai Chi classes interest you?
..... ?