

Active and Passive Voice Practice

Exercise 1

Identify each verb as *active* or *passive*.

1. _____ The authorities have been notified.
2. _____ This lettuce was grown in our own garden.
3. _____ Mom added fresh mushrooms just before serving the salad.
4. _____ Delegates to the convention have already been selected.
5. _____ Every scrap of food was eaten during the party.
6. _____ The team will elect a new captain tomorrow.
7. _____ That car was stolen from the municipal parking lot.
8. _____ Lydia has been visiting us this week.
9. _____ Damian has already chosen his courses.
10. _____ The governor has been asked to speak.

Exercise 2

Identify each verb as *active* or *passive*.

1. _____ The bitter medicine was taken by my sister.
2. _____ Delegates to the convention have been chosen by the voters.
3. _____ We each purchased several new outfits for spring.
4. _____ Later, the speaker wrote a letter of apology.
5. _____ Bread crumbs were then sprinkled on the fish.
6. _____ Many wild animals live in the forest.
7. _____ Surgery was performed by a team of specialists.
8. _____ Ellen grew her own fresh vegetables this summer.
9. _____ In the winter, snow covers the mountains.
10. _____ The bad news was then given to Brad by the coach.
11. _____ Representatives had been selected earlier by Congress.
12. _____ Kansas City was reached by the convoy in two hours.
13. _____ I always read the evening paper after dinner.
14. _____ After the debate on Tuesday, the report was accepted.
15. _____ The president has appointed a new ambassador.

Exercise 3A

Label the three necessary uses of the passive voice in the sentences below as *A* (appropriate).

Label the other uses as *U* (unnecessary).

EXAMPLE: Jason was asked by his mother to answer the phone. U

1. _____ A grand slam home run was hit by the catcher.
2. _____ Lincoln was elected to his first term in 1860.
3. _____ This sweater was knitted for me by my favorite aunt.
4. _____ In 1983 the America's Cup races were won by Australia.
5. _____ Many restaurants are closed on Mondays.
6. _____ That model airplane was made by Paul.
7. _____ Federal income tax returns must be postmarked by midnight on April 15.
8. _____ Candidates will be judged by the voters on their merits, not on their speeches.
9. _____ I have been being followed by that dog for three blocks.
10. _____ Dinner is being fixed by Mom right now.

Rewrite five of the sentences that you labeled *U* in Exercise 3A. Change or add words as necessary to put each verb into the active voice.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Rewrite the following paragraph, changing at least five uses of the passive voice to active.

(1) For years a so-called monster has been spotted by visitors to Loch Ness in Scotland. (2) The large creature has been reported by many witnesses. (3) Do lake monsters really exist? (4) These reports have been questioned by scientists. (5) According to some Canadian scientists, the sightings may be explained by temperature inversions. (6) A temperature inversion occurs when the temperature of a body of water is much lower than the temperature of the air above it. (7) Experiments were conducted by scientists on Lake Winnipeg, Canada, during a temperature inversion. (8) Two photos of an ordinary stick floating on the lake were taken only three minutes apart. (9) The bending, or refraction, of light caused by the inversion makes the stick appear to be a strangely shaped "monster." (10) These photos have been accepted by some scientists as proof that the lake monsters are really ordinary objects that appear distorted because of a temperature inversion.

[illegible]