

Ling Liang Church M H Lau Secondary School
S2 Summer Foundation Course - English Grammar Exercise

Name: _____ Class: _____ Class No.: _____

Lesson 4: Passive Voice

1. In the *active voice*, the subject of the sentence performs the action.

e.g. A thief **stole** her money.

In the *passive voice*, the subject of the sentence is acted upon by someone or something.

e.g. Her money **was stolen** by a thief.

2. The passive voice is used when:

i. we do not know who or what the 'doer' is.

e.g. My brother's bicycle **was stolen** last week. (We do not know who stole it.)

ii. the 'doer' is not important.

e.g. Paper **is made** from wood. (It is important to know what material paper is made from but not who makes it.)

iii. the 'doer' is obvious.

e.g. Our company is organizing a picnic next week. All staffs **are invited**. (It is obvious that the 'doer' is 'our company'.)

3. **3.1** We form the passive voice in the **simple present tense** with the verb '**am / are / is**' + the **past participle** of the main verb. We form positive and negative statements like this:

Subject	Verb to be	Past participle
I	<i>am / 'm</i> <i>am not / 'm not</i>	welcomed to the ceremony. eaten by the dog. stolen by the thief.
You / We / They	<i>are / 're</i> <i>are not / aren't</i>	
He / She / It	<i>is / 's</i> <i>is not / isn't</i>	

3.2 We form the passive voice in the **simple past tense** with the verb '**was / were**' + the **past participle** of the main verb. We form positive and negative statements like this:

Subject	Verb to be	Past participle
I	<i>was</i> <i>was not / wasn't</i>	welcomed to the ceremony. eaten by the dog. stolen by the thief.
You / We / They	<i>were</i> <i>were not / weren't</i>	
He / She / It	<i>was</i> <i>was not / wasn't</i>	

- X 13. The windows are dirty. They will be cleaned (clean) by my classmates next Monday.
14. This computer course will be completed (complete) next month.
15. The party will be held (hold) by Mary next Tuesday.
16. A mouse was killed (kill) by my uncle last Sunday.
17. The chairs will be painted (paint) in white tomorrow.
18. Mary is given (give) an ice-cream by her father everyday.
19. The road works will be completed (complete) next Thursday.
20. It is believed (believe) that the earth is round.
21. You will be asked (ask) several questions by them at the meeting tomorrow.
22. That bridge was built (build) in the 1950's.
23. A lot of rice is exported (export) from China every year.
24. My grandfather was treated (treat) by a team of doctors last year.
25. We were asked (ask) to attend the seminar by the teacher last lesson.
26. The document is will be signed (sign) by the manager later.
27. That little boy will be looked (look) after by his grandmother tomorrow morning.
28. These flowers are / were grown (grow) by Mr. Wong.
29. The safe was opened (open) by the thief last night.
30. All fruits were eaten (eat) by the boys this morning.

Exercise 2

Rewrite the sentences in passive voice.

e.g. Peter writes a letter.

A letter is written by Peter.

1. They built a house.

A house was built by them.

2. Our uncle takes Susan to hospital.

Susan is taken to hospital by our uncle.

3. My sister brought a cat to school.

A cat was brought to school by my sister

7. J&T Company / set up / August

J & T Company was set up in August.

8. house / sell / September

The house was sold in September.

9. car / steal / October

The car was stolen in October.

10. baby / born / November

A baby was born in November.

11. maid / hire / December

A maid was hired in December.

Exercise 4

Rewrite the following sentences with passive voice in the space provided.

The malfunction cases are reported.

Somebody reports the malfunction cases.

The complaints are followed up.

Somebody follows up complaints.

The enquiries are answered patiently.

Somebody answers the enquiries patiently.

The public areas are cleaned regularly.

Somebody cleans the public areas regularly.

The lighting is checked before the shops open.

Somebody checks the lighting before the shops open.

The windows are washed every morning.

Somebody washes the windows every morning.

The goods are wrapped outside the shops.

Somebody wraps the goods outside the shops.

The lobby is decorated every month.

Somebody decorates the lobby every month.

~~Some shows in front of the fountain are performed every weekend.~~

Somebody performs some shows in front of the fountain every weekend.

The manager will be told if there is any problem.

Somebody will tell the manager if there is any problem.

1. (Some shows are performed in front of the fountain every weekend.)
2. _____