

17 Rewrite the following passage in the passive.



Someone broke into the National Gallery late last night. The thieves had broken the alarm system before they climbed through a window. They stole some priceless works of art. They used a getaway car to escape. The police have questioned some suspects. They have not caught the thieves yet.

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18 Rewrite the following passage in the passive.

A few days ago, somebody stole Keith Dunn's motorbike. Keith had left his motorbike outside his house. Keith reported the theft to the police. The police told him they would try to find his motorbike. This morning, the police called Keith and asked him to go to the police station. They had found his motorbike. The thieves had painted it and then sold it to someone else. The new owner had parked the motorbike outside the police station. The police arrested the thieves.

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19 Rewrite the following passage in the passive.

Yesterday afternoon, a volcanic eruption destroyed an entire village. Mount Sirius, which experts thought was dormant, erupted at 3 pm. Tourists had seen smoke rising from the mouth of the volcano two days before. The police moved the villagers away from the area for their own safety. Tons of lava and rock came out of the volcano and wrecked houses, roads and trees. Although the blast physically injured only a few people, doctors are treating many for shock. The authorities are keeping the area surrounding Mount Sirius clear in case of further activity.

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20 Rewrite the sentences in the passive.

- I made this omelette with onions and cheese.  
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*...This omelette was made with onions and cheese...*
- Everyone considers her to be the best student in the class.  
.....
- Mary wants someone to help her when she paints the house.  
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- They will have built the new bridge by the end of the year.  
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- People ask Eve questions about her job all the time.  
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- The detective had collected all the information before he handed in his report.  
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- Do people expect Jane to get a promotion this year?  
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- Frank doesn't like people telling him what to do.  
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- They washed the car with soapy water.  
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- Who will make the speech tomorrow?  
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- What did they decorate the streets with?  
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21 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct passive tense.

Do you think Mars 1) *will be colonised*... (colonise) by humans one day? The planet Mars 2) ..... (know) as 'the red planet'. The soil there is red and its surface 3) ..... (cover) in volcanoes. Until recently, it 4) ..... (believe) that nothing could live on Mars, but during a recent space mission, tests 5) ..... (carry out), and now it 6) ..... (think) that life on Mars might be possible one day. During the space mission, special equipment 7) ..... (use) to examine the planet. No form of life 8) ..... (find) yet, and so far, the planet 9) ..... (consider) unsuitable for inhabitation. However, we 10) ..... (tell) by scientists that, by 2020, humans 11) ..... (send) to Mars, and that one day, special cities 12) ..... (build) so that we can live there. It 13) ..... (hope) that by 2150, Mars will be a wonderful place to live. If a colony 14) ..... (build) on Mars, would you like to live there?

22 Rewrite the sentences in the passive.

- My sister told me the joke.  
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*...I was told the joke by my sister./The joke was told to me by my sister...*
- Has Chris sent those letters yet?  
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- Mr Jones hates people giving him orders.  
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- People hope that the President will take control of the situation.  
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- My mother decorated this room.  
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- What stung her?  
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- Has Jane read that book yet?  
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- We hope they will send us an invitation too.  
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- They say that Richard has inherited a lot of money.  
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- I can't stand people laughing at me.  
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- Who is repairing John's car?  
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- Someone should tell Mary to stop being rude to people.  
.....

23 Choose the correct answer.

- 'Was Tom pleased with the newspaper and him?'  
'No. He was angry because his name ...'  
A spelt B had been spelt C is
- 'Did you buy that picture?'  
'No, it ..... to me for my birthday.'  
A was given B gave C is
- 'Are you going to buy a wedding dress?'  
'No. My dress ..... by my mother.'  
A is being made B is made C m
- 'Have you arranged the party yet?'  
'Yes. All the invitations .....'  
A are sent B have been sent C se
- 'So, have you had your book published?'  
'Yes. It ..... in all bookshops from J'  
A will be B is C is
- 'Do your cats eat a lot?'  
'No. They ..... once a day, that's all.'  
A is fed B are fed C fe
- 'Paul is taking me to a ball this weekend.'  
'I would love ..... to a ball!'  
A take B to take C to
- 'Did you hear about the burglary last week?'  
'Yes. The thieves ..... now, haven't they?'  
A have been caught B caught C a
- 'Can you swim?'  
'Oh yes. I ..... how to swim when I was young.'  
A taught B am taught C
- 'Doctors have to do a lot of work.'  
'Yes, but they ..... well.'  
A be paid B are paid C
- 'Where does that lady keep her jewellery?'  
'It ..... in a safe somewhere in her house.'  
A is kept B are kept C
- 'What is happening over there?'  
'Oh, a new cinema .....'  
A is being built B is built C
- 'How is Kevin?'  
'Well, his car ..... last night, so he's not here today.'  
A is stolen B has been stolen C
- 'What should you do if you are lost?'  
'You should stay where you are and wait for the police.'  
A was found B to find C
- 'Have you got Claire's phone number?'  
'Yes. It ..... on this piece of paper.'  
A is written B written C

**Personal / Impersonal Construction**

The verbs *think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, understand, etc.* are used in the following passive patterns in personal and impersonal constructions.

**active:** People say that he has lost his job.  
**passive:** a) It is said (that) he has lost his job. (impersonal construction)  
b) He is said to have lost his job. (personal construction)

**active:** People know that she works hard.  
**passive:** c) It is known (that) she works hard.  
d) She is known to work hard.

**active:** People think he left the country last night.  
**passive:** e) It is thought (that) he left the country last night.  
f) He is thought to have left the country last night.

**11 Complete the sentences, as in the example.**

- It is expected that he will win the race tomorrow. He ...is expected to win the race tomorrow....
- It is thought that the school has good teachers. The school .....
- It is said that she speaks seven languages. She .....
- It is believed that the missing jewellery has been found. The missing jewellery .....
- It is thought that she is a talented pianist. She .....
- It is said that the athletes train for eight hours every day. The athletes .....
- It is expected that the American team will break the world record. The American team .....
- It is known that she is hiding somewhere in the city. She .....
- It is reported that the world leaders have reached an agreement. The world leaders .....
- It is reported that the thieves have escaped from prison. The thieves .....
- It is expected that they will give her the prize. She .....


**12 Rewrite the sentences in the passive.**

- Ellie will take the children to school. ...The children will be taken to school by Ellie....
- He cut the grass with the new lawnmower yesterday. ....
- Did they show the fire on the news? .....
- Emma is showing them the photographs. ....
- When did the wind blow down the tree? .....
- Who has to sign these papers? .....
- Amanda hates people staring at her. ....
- She expects her boss to offer her a promotion. ....
- He has to tidy his bedroom. ....
- Will you have completed the task by Friday evening? .....
- Terry offered her a lift to work. ....
- Who teaches traditional dance at this school? .....
- People often stuff turkeys with chestnut stuffing. ....
- They awarded him a prize for his competition entry. ....
- Will they play the tennis match on an indoor court? .....
- Tom doesn't like people asking him personal questions. ....
- Everyone must learn the poem by heart. ....
- Jean hadn't cleaned the house by the time her husband arrived. ....
- Who is going to welcome the guests? .....
- We cook all the meals. ....
- Grandmother takes care of the children. ....
- Kate is choosing a new carpet at the moment. ....
- Had Stuart washed the car before he went to the cinema? .....
- Peter gave Jane a letter. ....
- Who made all these cakes? .....

**13 Make a passive sentence from the words in brackets.**

- A: That's a beautiful picture.  
B: Yes. (It / paint / my mother) ...It was painted by my mother....
- A: Have they caught the thieves yet?  
B: Yes. (two men / arrest / yesterday) .....
- A: Did you build the garage yourselves?  
B: No. (the garage / build / before we moved in) .....
- A: Why is Paul afraid of dogs?  
B: (he / bite / a dog / when he was a little boy) .....
- A: Sarah is very ill.  
B: (she / take / to hospital last night) .....
- A: This room is a disgrace.  
B: (it / not clean / for weeks) .....
- A: Did you know about your surprise party?  
B: No. (it / arrange / in secret) .....
- A: Are you going to drive to work today?  
B: I can't. (the car / not fix / yet) .....
- A: Has Tom got a job?  
B: No. (he / make redundant / last month) .....

**14 Underline the correct answer.**



**Fire 1) swept/was swept** through a furniture warehouse yesterday afternoon. Most of the stock inside 2) **was damaged/damaged**, but shocked workers 3) **have been managed/managed** to save a small amount of it. The police 4) **are being investigated/are investigating** the cause of the fire, but it 5) **is thought/thinks** that it was an accident. The shop manager 6) **is being looked/is looking** for another warehouse where stock can 7) **keep/be kept**. 'A lot of stock 8) **has been lost/has lost**, but the shop 9) **will open/will be opened** tomorrow as usual,' said the manager. 'I'm just glad no one 10) **hurt/was hurt**.'

**15 Put the verbs in brackets into the active or passive tense.**

Wine 1) **is made...** (make) all over the world, but no two wines ever taste the same. Wine has three main ingredients: water, sugar and alcohol, and 2) ..... (come) in three colours: red, rosé and white. To make wine, grapes 3) ..... (grow) in vineyards. When they 4) ..... (be) ripe, they 5) ..... (harvest) and 6) ..... (crush). Then, sulphur dioxide 7) ..... (add) to the crushed grapes, and they 8) ..... (leave) in large barrels to ferment. During fermentation, the temperature must 9) ..... (control) and air must 10) ..... (keep out) of the barrels. When the fermentation process is finished, the wine 11) ..... (extract) after it 12) ..... (purify), it 13) ..... (put) into bottles. Bottled wine should always 14) ..... (store) at the right temperature and protected from light. It should also not be moved. The reason for looking after wine 15) ..... (become) older and better is that some wines not only taste better but also 16) ..... (increase) in value.

**16 Put the verbs in brackets into the active or passive tense.**

- Did you visit many places when you were on holiday? Well, on the first day we 1) **were taken** on a tour of the historic monuments by our guide.
- Oh, Did you go everywhere with him? No, we also 2) **go** to some of the best places by ourselves.
- How did you manage to travel to the other side of the world? We 3) **advise** (advise) to hire a car. We 4) **choose** (choose) to use public transport because it is much cheaper.
- How did you know which buses and trains to take? How 5) **ask** (ask) at the information centre and we 6) **give** (give) an excellent book which 7) **tell** (tell) us everything we needed to know.
- So, you enjoyed it then? Oh, yes! We had a really great time!