



The Passive Voice in Every Tense — B1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- My bicycle ____ last night from outside the library.
A) stole B) was stolen C) has stolen D) is stealing
- The bridge ____ at the moment, so use the ferry.
A) is repairing B) is being repaired C) repairs D) has repaired
- This form must ____ in black ink.
A) be completed B) completed C) being completed D) to complete
- Why is the passive preferred in 'The samples were heated to 200°C'?
A) It is more polite B) The person who did it is irrelevant
C) It is shorter D) It sounds older
- The results ____ by the end of the week.
A) will announce B) will be announced C) will announced D) are announcing
- Which verb cannot be made passive?
A) build B) arrive C) repair D) deliver
- The parcel ____ already ____ when I got home.
A) was / delivering B) had / been delivered C) has / delivered D) were / delivered
- In which sentence should the by phrase be kept?
A) The window was broken by somebody. B) Hamlet was written by Shakespeare.
C) My car was stolen by a thief. D) The letter was posted by a person.
- English ____ in more than fifty countries.
A) speaks B) is spoken C) is speaking D) has spoken
- The road ____ since March and is still closed.
A) is resurfaced B) has been resurfaced C) was resurfacing D) resurfaces

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

- The office _____ cleaned every evening after six.
- These photographs _____ taken during the war.

3. The report must _____ submitted before Friday.
4. A new hospital _____ being built on the edge of town.
5. The letters _____ already been posted when she changed her mind.
6. Breakfast _____ served between seven and ten.
7. The winners _____ be announced at the ceremony tonight.
8. Nothing has _____ decided about the merger yet.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. The / broken / during / was / storm. / window / the

Report damage without naming a cause.

2. at / being / This / present. / repaired / bridge / is

Describe work currently in progress, passively.

3. All / in / signed / ink. / be / forms / must

Give an impersonal official instruction.

4. results / Monday. / The / will / be / published / on

Announce a future event with no named agent.

5. Shakespeare. / William / Hamlet / written / was / by

Keep the by phrase because it matters.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **B) was stolen** — The past simple passive is was or were plus the past participle.
2. **B) is being repaired** — The present continuous passive is is being plus the past participle.
3. **A) be completed** — After a modal the passive is be plus the past participle, with no tense marking of its own.
4. **B) The person who did it is irrelevant** — Scientific writing uses the passive because the procedure matters and the technician does not.
5. **B) will be announced** — The future passive is will be plus the past participle.
6. **B) arrive** — Arrive takes no object, and only a verb with an object can have a passive form.
7. **B) had / been delivered** — The past perfect passive is had been plus the past participle.
8. **B) Hamlet was written by Shakespeare.** — Keep by when the agent adds real information. Somebody, a thief and a person add none.
9. **B) is spoken** — The present simple passive states a general fact where the doer is everybody.
10. **B) has been resurfaced** — The present perfect passive is has or have been plus the past participle.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **is** — The present simple passive uses is or are plus the past participle for a routine.
2. **were** — A plural subject in the past simple passive takes were plus the past participle.
3. **be** — After a modal, the passive is always be plus the past participle.
4. **is** — The present continuous passive describes construction currently under way.
5. **had** — The past perfect passive is had been plus the past participle.
6. **is** — Hotel notices use the present simple passive because the staff are understood.
7. **will** — The future passive is will be plus the past participle.
8. **been** — The present perfect passive needs been between has and the past participle.

C. Sentence building

1. **The window was broken during the storm.**
2. **This bridge is being repaired at present.**
3. **All forms must be signed in ink.**
4. **The results will be published on Monday.**
5. **Hamlet was written by William Shakespeare.**