

Exercise 1. Convert each sentence to the passive form. Identify the correct answer.

1. Peter won the lottery yesterday.
 - a) The lottery had been won by Peter yesterday.
 - b) The lottery was won by Peter yesterday.
 - c) The lottery is won by Peter yesterday.
2. The police have interrogated Nick three times.
 - a) Nick is interrogated by the police three times.
 - b) Nick was interrogated by the police three times.
 - c) Nick has been interrogated by the police three times.
3. After dinner, Dr. Robson paid the bill.
 - a) After dinner, the bill was paid by Dr. Robson.
 - b) After dinner, the bill has been paid by Dr. Robson.
 - c) After dinner, the bill is paid by Dr. Robson.
4. Rachel respects Linda's opinion.
 - a) Linda's opinion will be respected by Rachel.
 - b) Linda's opinion was respected by Rachel.
 - c) Linda's opinion is respected by Rachel.
5. Brian met him at the airport.
 - a) He was met by Brian at the airport.
 - b) He would be met by Brian at the airport.
 - c) He has met Brian at the airport.
6. Amanda has visited Aunt May and Uncle George many times.
 - a) Aunt May and Uncle George were visited by Amanda many times.
 - b) Aunt May and Uncle George are visited by Amanda many times.
 - c) Aunt May and Uncle George have been visited by Amanda many times.
7. Fred always informs Brian about everything.
 - a) Brian is always informed by Fred.
 - b) Brian to be always informed by Fred.
 - c) Brian has always been informed by Fred.
8. The police arrested 12 students last night.
 - a) 12 students were going to be arrested last night.
 - b) 12 students were arrested last night.
 - c) 12 students should have been arrested last night.
9. Nick visited me last week.
 - a) I was visited by Nick last week.
 - b) I be visited by Nick last week.
 - c) I was to be visited by Nick last week.
10. Superman has saved many people since he arrived on Earth.
 - a) Many people are saved by Superman since he arrived on Earth.
 - b) Many people have been saved by Superman since he arrived on Earth.
 - c) Many people were saved by Superman since he arrived on Earth.

Exercise 2. Insert the verbs given using the passive form (use present simple, past simple or present perfect).

1. The radio _____ by Marconi in 1895. (invent)
2. Both English and French _____ in Canada. (speak)
- 3a. Yesterday's race _____ by a young German woman. (win)
- 3b. Tomorrow's race _____ by a young German woman. (win)
- 4a. Rolex watches _____ in Switzerland. (make)
- 4b. Rolex watches _____ in China. (not / make)
5. French _____ in many English schools. (teach)
6. Millions of parcels _____ to homes every day. (deliver)
7. Sushi _____ in Japan for over 1000 years. (eat)
8. When I visited the kitchen, 4 pizzas _____. (make)
9. Many mummies _____ in Egypt. (discover)
10. \$100 million _____ on the stock exchange yesterday. (lose)

Exercise 3. Rewrite the following sentences using the passive voice. Include the actor only if you think it's necessary.

Example: Peter **wrote** a letter. --> A letter **was written** (by Peter).

1) Julia rescued three cats yesterday.

2) The students delivered the reports at 10am.

3) Car companies in Brazil make about 250,000 cars every year.

4) The Portuguese colonized Brazil in 1500.

5) Somebody is repairing the TV at the moment.

6) When I entered the workshop, a mechanic was repairing my car.

7) Maria lit the candles 5 minutes ago.

8) 68 men built the house last year.

9) The teacher won't grade the tests.

A special case

When somebody “thinks / believes / expects / knows” that something is true, we can say:

It is thought / believed / expected / known that

In other words, we use the passive voice for the verbs “think / believe / expect / know”, since the actor is not important. In Portuguese, we can say “Pensa-se / Acredita-se / Espera-se / Sabe-se (que)”. Here are some examples.

- It is thought that he lives in Manchester.
- It is believed that he died of pneumonia.
- It is known that he will inherit his father’s fortune.
- It is expected that it will rain a lot tomorrow.
- It is believed that he is immortal.
- It is expected that the dollar will fall.

The second phrase (after “that”) can also be in the passive form. For example:

- It is thought that the robber was shot 3 times.
- It is known that the island is inhabited by giant spiders.
- It is expected that the sun will be eclipsed by the moon for 2 minutes.

For quantities, we can use the verbs “**estimate**” (“Estima-se que ...”) or “**calculate**” (“Calcula-se que ...”). For example:

- It is estimated that less than 10% of Brazilians are fluent speakers of English.
- It is calculated that about 500,000 Americans visit Brazil each year.

Exercise 4. Translate the following sentences.

1. Acredita-se que muitos turistas vêm ao Reino Unido para visitar castelos.

2. Estima-se que 10% dos turistas que visitam o Reino Unido não falam inglês.

3. Pensa-se que o universo esteja em constante expansão.

4. Espera-se que a temperatura global continue a subir.

5. Pensa-se que seu filho tenha fugido de casa.

6. Acredita-se que as Maldivas perderam 80% de seus recifes de coral desde 1980.
