

## The passive voice

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**1 Complete these sentences with one of the following verbs in the correct form: carry, check, drive, find, hear, knock, make, spend, translate, wake.**

Example:

The music at the party was very loud and could **be heard** from far away.

- 1 A decision will not ..... until the next meeting.
- 2 That building is dangerous. It ought to ..... down before it falls down.
- 3 When you go through Customs, your luggage may ..... by a customs officer.
- 4 I told the hotel receptionist that I wanted to ..... up at 6.30.
- 5 Her new book will probably ..... into a number of foreign languages.
- 6 Police are looking for the missing boy. He can't ..... anywhere.
- 7 Do you think that less money should ..... on arms?
- 8 The injured man couldn't walk and had to .....
- 9 I don't mind driving but I prefer to ..... by other people.

**2 Put these sentences into the passive.**

- 1 People don't use this road very often.  
.....
- 2 They're building a new ring-road round the city.  
.....
- 3 I didn't realize that somebody was recording our voice.  
.....
- 4 They have changed the date of the meeting.  
.....
- 5 Brian told me that somebody had attacked and robbed him in the street.  
.....

**3 Change these sentences from active to passive. Use a personal subject wherever possible.**

- 1 We clean the garages every day.  
.....
- 2 Someone has given him a lot of money.  
.....
- 3 The police arrested two hundred people.  
.....
- 4 Paul wrote the words and John made the music.  
.....
- 5 We check every car engine thoroughly.  
.....
- 6 We export this computer to seventy different countries.  
.....
- 7 We opened the factory at nine o'clock.  
.....
- 8 They send two million books to America every year.  
.....
- 9 Did he give you enough sugar?  
.....
- 10 No-one has ever taught the pupils to do that exercise.  
.....
- 11 John Hughes built the biggest sand castle in the world.  
.....
- 12 They showed me the palace where the king lived.  
.....
- 13 Has anyone ever asked you to tell the story?  
.....
- 14 They watered the plants and swept the floor in my absence.  
.....
- 15 The Scots drink more alcohol than the Irish.  
.....
- 16 Fortunately, they did not damage the machinery.  
.....

- 17 They paid me a lot of money to do the job.  
 .....  
 18 Simon is painting the house and cleaning it.  
 .....  
 19 Harrison Ford played Deckerd in *'Blade Runner'*.  
 .....

**4 Put the following sentences into the passive.**

- 1 They have modernised the theatre.
- 2 Sanders and Company are building that house.
- 3 You must obey these orders.
- 4 We keep the documents in this drawer.
- 5 The director signed the letters.
- 6 People have known it for a long time.
- 7 The rescuers carried the two cold and hungry children down the mountain and took them into a warm room.
- 8 They announced the arrival of the next plane over the loudspeakers.
- 9 Did anyone send you the photographs which they promised you?
- 10 They showed her carefully how to do it.
- 11 The doctor has ordered me a new diet.
- 12 Look what they have given me!
- 13 Poor John! A bus ran him down.
- 14 Publishers are bringing out new puzzle magazines all the time.
- 15 We must sell everything before the end of the month.
- 16 A man told us to wait outside.
- 17 Our own correspondent sent in this article.
- 18 Someone has put the wrong headline on this report.
- 19 You can see her face in every gossip column in the country.
- 20 You have to see it to believe it.

**Answer Key**

- 1 1-be made 2-be knocked 3-be checked 4-be woken 5-be translated  
6-be found 7-be spent 8-be carried 9-be driven.
- 2 1-This road isn't very often used/ isn't used very often. 2-A new ring-road is being built round the city. 3-I didn't realize that our voice was being recorded. 4-The date of the meeting has been changed. 5-Brian told me that he had been attacked and robbed in the street.
- 3 1-The garage is cleaned every day. 2-He has been given a lot of money. 3-Two hundred people were arrested (by the police). 4-The words were written by Paul and the music (was) made by John. 5-Every car engine is thoroughly checked/ is checked thoroughly. 6-This computer is exported to seventy different countries. 7-The factory was opened at nine o'clock. 8-Two million books are sent to America every year. 9-Were you given enough sugar? 10-The pupils have never been taught to do that exercise. 11-The biggest sand castle in the world was built by John Hughes. 12-I was shown the palace where the king lived. 13-Have you ever been asked to tell the story? 14-The plants were watered and the floor (was) swept in my absence. 15-More alcohol is drunk by the Scots than the Irish. 16-Fortunately, the machinery was not damaged. 17-I was paid a lot of money to do the job. 18-The house is being painted and cleaned by Simon. 19-Deckerd was played by Harrison Ford in *'Blade Runner'*.
- 4 1-The theatre has been modernised. 2-That house is being built by Sanders and Company. 3-These orders must be obeyed. 4-The documents are kept in this drawer. 5-The letters were signed by the director. 6-It has been known for a long time. 7-The two cold and hungry children were carried down the mountain and taken into a warm room by the rescuers. 8-The arrival of the next plane was announced over the loudspeakers. 9-Were you sent the photographs which you were promised? 10-She was carefully shown how to do it. 11-I have been ordered a new diet (by the doctor). 12-Look what I have been given! 13-Poor John! He was run down by a bus. 14-New puzzle magazines are being brought out all the time. 15-Everything must be sold before the end of the month. 16-We were told to wait outside. 17-This article was sent in by our own correspondent. 18-The wrong headline has been put on this report. 19-Her face can be seen in every gossip column in the country. 20-It has to be seen to be believed.