

Universidad de Los Andes
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

Practicing the Passive¹

I. Choose the correct answer. You don't always have to use the passive.

Example: Ms. Haugen D at the Ajax Company.

A. is employing B. employed C. employing D. is employed

1. I still can't believe it! My bicycle _____ last night.

A. was stolen B. was stealing C. stolen D. stole

2. The current constitutional problem is _____ by the top legal minds in the country.

A. studying C. being studied
B. being studying D. been studied

3. Something funny _____ in class yesterday.

A. happened B. was happened C. happens D. is happened

4. The child's arm was swollen because he _____ by a bee.

A. stung C. had been stung
B. had stung D. had being stung

5. Today, many serious childhood diseases _____ by early immunization.

A. are preventing C. prevent
B. can prevent D. can be prevented

6. I _____ with you on that subject.

A. am agree B. am agreed C. agreeing D. agree

7. Many U.S. automobiles _____ in Detroit, Michigan.

A. manufacture C. are manufactured
B. have manufactured D. are manufacturing

8. Let's go ahead and do it now. Nothing _____ by waiting.

A. accomplishes C. has accomplished
B. accomplished D. will be accomplished

¹ Adapted from: Azar, B. S. (2000). Understanding and using English grammar - Workbook (3rd ed.). White Plains, NY: Longman.

9. "When _____?"
"In 1928."
A. penicillin was discovered C. was penicillin discovered
B. did penicillin discovered D. did penicillin discover
10. In recent years, the government has imposed pollution controls on automobile manufacturers. Both domestic and imported automobiles must _____ anti-pollution devices.
A. equip with C. equip by
B. be equipped with D. be equipped by
11. A shortage of water is a problem in many parts of the world. In some areas, water from the ground _____ faster than nature can replenish the supply.
A. is being taken B. has been taking C. is taking D. has taken
12. Vitamin C _____ by the human body. It gets into the blood stream quickly.
A. absorbs easily C. is easily absorbed
B. is easily absorbing D. absorbed easily
13. "When can I have my car back?"
"I think it'll _____ late this afternoon."
A. finish B. be finished C. have finished D. be finish
14. I didn't think my interview went very well, but I guess it must have. Despite all my anxiety, I _____ for the job I wanted. I'm really going to work hard to justify their confidence.
A. was hiring B. hired C. got hiring D. got hired
15. My country _____ the pursuit of world peace.
A. is dedicating to C. is dedicating by
B. is dedicated to D. is dedicated by
16. About 15,000 years ago, northern Wisconsin _____ under ice a mile deep.
A. buried B. was burying C. was buried D. had buried
17. Ed was new on the job, but he quickly fit himself into the _____ routine of the office.
A. established B. establishing C. establishes D. establish
18. The Mayan Indians _____ an accurate and sophisticated calendar more than seven centuries ago.
A. were developed B. developed C. are developed D. have been developed
19. George is _____ Lisa.
A. marry with B. marry to C. married with D. married to
20. The rescuers _____ for their bravery and fortitude in locating the lost mountain climbers.
A. were praised B. praised C. were praising D. praising

II. Change these sentences to the passive.

Example: A. Did Tom write that report? Was that report written by Tom?

B. No, he didn't write it. Alice wrote it. No, it wasn't written by him. It was by
written by Alice.

1. A. Is Mr. Brown painting your house? _____

B. No, he isn't painting it. My uncle is painting it. _____

2. A. Will Steve wash the dishes? _____

B. No, he won't wash them. The children will wash them. _____

3. A. Has Sue planned the meeting? _____

B. No. she hasn't planned it. The committee has planned it. _____

4. A. Does Mr. Parr play that violin? _____

B. No, he doesn't play it. His son plays it. _____

5. A. Is Jack going to return the books to the library? _____

B. No, he isn't going to return them. His sister is going to return them. _____

6. A. Did the archeologists discover the ancient skeleton? _____

B. No, they didn't discover it. A farmer discovered it. _____

7. A. Was Sally preparing the food? _____

B. No. she wasn't preparing it. Her mother was preparing it. _____

8. A. Will Ms. Anderson have typed the letters? _____

B. No, she won't have typed them. The secretary will have typed them. _____

II. Complete the sentences with the words in parentheses. Some sentences are active and some are passive. Use any appropriate tense. Follow the examples.

Example A: You (*notify*) will be notified by my secretary next week.

Example B: Last night I (*remember, not*) didn't remember to lock my front door.

1. At the present time, the oldest house in town (*restore*) _____
by the Historical Society. When the restoration is finished, the house is sure to be a popular
tourist attraction.

2. A: What a beautiful old wooden chest!

B: It (*build*) _____ by my grandfather over fifty years ago.

3. At one time, the entire world (*rule*) _____ by dinosaurs. Some
dinosaurs (*walk*) _____ and (*stand*) _____
_____ as tall as palm trees.

4. Disneyland is a world famous amusement park in Southern California. It (*visit*) _____
_____ by more than ten million people every year.

5. Many of us take water for granted in our daily lives, but people who live in the desert (*use, not*) _____ water carelessly. To them, each drop is precious.
6. I (*agree, not*) _____ with people who say space exploration is a waste of money. What do you think?
7. Do you really think that we (*invade*) _____ by creatures from outer space in the near future?
8. Most insects (*live*) _____ for less than a year. The common house fly (*live*) _____ from 19 to 30 days.
9. (*you, accept, already*) _____ by this university when you heard about the other scholarship?
10. I got into a taxi quickly because I (*follow*) _____ by two strange men. As soon as I got into the taxi, I (*feel*) _____ a little safer.

III. Complete the sentences with the given words. Some of the sentences are passive and some are active. Use any appropriate tense. Follow the examples.

Example A: The examination papers are scored by machine. The students (*tell*) will be told their results next week.

Example B: The project got finished early. The committee (*complete*) completed its work three weeks ahead of schedule.

1. The teacher (*assist*) _____ by two graduate students during the exam yesterday.
2. Soon after I (*apply*) _____ for a job with the United Nations two years ago, I (*hire*) _____.
3. The crocodiles at the zoo look like statues. They (*lie*) _____ perfectly still for hours at a time. They have no need to move because they don't have to hunt for their food. They (*feed*) _____ regularly by the zookeepers.
4. This lovely beach won't exist forever. Eventually, it (*erode, probably*) _____ by the sea, and there will be nothing left but bedrock. The geologic forces of nature never stop.
5. Bananas originated in Asia. They (*introduce*) _____ to the Americas in 1516. Until the 1860s, bananas (*eat*) _____ by people of the tropics. Today, bananas (*export*) _____ to all parts of the world, and they (*enjoy*) _____ by people who live in all climates.
6. There's going to be a story in the local newspaper about my neighbor, Mrs. Morris. Tomorrow, she (*interview*) _____ by one of the local reporters about her doll collection. Over the years, she (*collect*) _____ more than 400 dolls from all over the world.
7. Ali and Mustafa (*complain*) _____ to the landlord many times since they moved into their apartment, but to date nothing (*do*) _____ about the leak in the roof and the broken window in the bedroom.
8. Yesterday I told my teenage daughter to clean her room before she (*go*) _____ to school. After she had left the house, I poked in her _____

- room. She (*pile*) _____ all her clothes on a chair. Everything else (*shove*) _____ under the bed.
9. Sometimes people (*intimidate*) _____ by salespeople. As a result, sometimes they (*buy*) _____ things they don't really want.
10. Two days ago I (*put*) _____ an ad in the classified section of the newspaper so I could find a buyer for my old car. Yesterday I (*sell*) _____ it. It (*buy*) _____ by a teenager who (*look*) _____ for an old car to fix up himself. Today a friend of mine told me he wanted to buy my old car, but he was too late. By the time he talked to me, the car (*sell, already*) _____ to the teenager.

IV. Complete the sentences with the appropriate forms of the verbs in the list. Use each verb only once. Some of the sentences are active and some are passive.

<i>consider</i>	<i>pollute</i>	<i>sew</i>	<i>whisper</i>	<i>cost</i>
<i>read</i>	<i>sign</i>	<i>wrap</i>	<i>discover</i>	<i>repeat</i>
<i>tell</i>	<i>forget</i>	<i>replace</i>	<i>wear</i>	

- Jack has a right to know. He ought to _____ the news immediately. If you don't, I will.
- I have no patience with gossips. What I told Bill was a secret. He shouldn't have _____ it to you.
- Use this brown paper and tape. A package has to _____ carefully before it is mailed. Otherwise, the post office won't send it
- I don't know why Jessica wasn't at the meeting. She must have _____ about it. Next time there's a meeting. I'll be sure to remind her about it.
- The ancient ruins may have _____ as early as 1792. The historical record is difficult to interpret.
- You should _____ this button back on right away before you lose it.
- This burnt out light bulb should have _____ days ago. There are some new bulbs in the green cabinet. Could you get one for me?
- Did you know that Sylvia bought a new sports car? I don't know how much she paid for it, and of course it's none of my business, but it must have _____ her a lot of money.
- Shhhh! Let's not talk so loudly. We don't want to awaken the baby. We'd better _____.
- You'd better not drink that river water. It could _____.

V. Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the verbs in the list. Use the simple present tense. Use each verb only once.

<i>acquaint</i>	<i>equip</i>	<i>locate</i>	<i>schedule</i>	<i>cancel</i>	<i>forbid</i>
<i>make</i>	<i>summarize</i>	<i>clog</i>	<i>list, not</i>	<i>overdraw</i>	<i>wrinkle</i>

1. Maria's family lives in New York City, and her husband's family lives in Philadelphia. They would like to live in the city which _____ between the two so that they can visit their relatives frequently.
2. Robert wrote a very good, well-organized composition. The introduction tells the reader what the composition is about, and the last paragraph reviews all of his main points. His conclusions _____ in the last paragraph.
3. I don't know how, but I've lost my brother's new telephone number. Unfortunately, it _____, so I can't look it up in the directory. I'll have to call my mother and get it from her.
4. We can't climb over the fence to walk in that field. The sign says, "Trespassing _____ . Violators will be prosecuted."
5. I _____ not _____ with our new neighbors. They just moved in last week, and I haven't had the opportunity to introduce myself.
6. Your dental appointment _____ for 10:00 on Saturday. Please give us 24-hours notice if you need to cancel it.
7. I have to deposit some money in the bank immediately, or I'm in big trouble. I've written too many checks, and there's not enough money to cover them. My bank account _____.
8. Good news! Our meeting _____. Now we can go to the beach after work instead of spending the evening at a meeting.
9. I can't wear this blouse because it _____. I'd have to iron it, and I don't have time.
10. Some new automobiles _____ with air bags as well as seat belts. The air bags provide additional protection in case of an accident.

VI. Complete the sentences with the appropriate prepositions.

1. This apartment comes furnished _____ only a stove and a refrigerator.
2. My uncle is known _____ his generosity.
3. Alice is dressed _____ her warmest clothes today.
4. For the holiday meal, the bowls on the table were filled _____ specially prepared foods.
5. People who have been exposed _____ heavy doses of radiation may be more susceptible to certain diseases.
6. By the end of the long trip, the floor of the car was cluttered _____ junk.
7. Mr. Bellamy is discriminated _____ because of his age. When he applies for a job, he gets turned down as soon as they learn he is 61 years old.
8. The boss is so convinced _____ Jean's ability that he's paying her more money than he paid the previous employee.
9. Victor is blessed _____ a good sense of humor, which has helped him get out of some difficult situations.
10. A: Are you disappointed _____ the color of this room? We could repaint it.
B: I think I'm satisfied _____ it the way it is. What do you think?
11. George Washington, the first president of the United States, is remembered _____ his strong leadership during the Revolutionary War.
12. Zoology is more closely related _____ biology than it is to botany.
13. I'm annoyed _____ my boss. He scheduled a meeting for an hour beginning at ten o'clock, the same time I was planning to see a client.
14. As soon as you're done _____ the dictionary, I'd like to use it.
15. Last month, little Billy was bitten by a dog. Now he's scared _____ every dog he sees.

16. Carol is engaged _____ Larry. Their marriage is planned for May 3.
17. A: Why are you so upset _____ the children?
B: They didn't call me when they missed their school bus, and I got very worried _____ them.
18. Each speaker was limited _____ three minutes.
19. Olga is exhausted. She's tired _____ working 19 straight hours at her computer, but she can't go home until the crisis is over.
20. I'm tired _____ living in a small apartment. I'd like to live in a house, or at least a larger apartment.

VII. Complete the sentences by using an appropriate form of **get** and the past participle of the verbs in the list.

<i>accept</i>	<i>dress</i>	<i>embarrass</i>	<i>invite</i>	<i>catch</i>	<i>elect</i>
<i>fire</i>	<i>mug</i>	<i>cheat</i>	<i>electrocute</i>	<i>hit</i>	<i>ruin</i>

1. I shouldn't have parked my car near the construction site. It _____ by falling rocks. Now it's covered with dents and scratches.
2. Tom has applied to three top universities. Since he's an excellent student, I'm sure he'll _____ by at least one of them. If he doesn't, there are other good schools he can attend.
3. Alex thought he had gotten a good deal when he bought a diamond ring from some guy on the street, but the "stone" turned out to be glass and was practically worthless. Alex _____.
4. A: I can't believe Paul _____ from his job. I thought he was doing well.
B: He was, but then he had a major disagreement with his boss, and tempers were flying. I hope he gets his job back
5. A: Let's take the subway.
B: Not me! The last time I was on the subway, I _____. A man knocked me down and stole my wallet.
6. A Did you _____ to the Saunder's dinner party tonight?
B: Yes, but I can't go.
7. A: You're all out of breath!
B: I was late getting home and had to _____ quickly. Then I ran all the way over here.
A: Well, that explains why your collar is up and your tie is crooked
8. The animal was running through the woods when it suddenly _____ in the hunter's trap.

VIII. Rewrite the following passage. Change to the passive only those sentences that can be so changed.

Rolling Thunder motorcyclists visit the White House

Sunday, May 30, 2004 Posted: 9:26 PM EDT (0126 GMT)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Members of the Rolling Thunder motorcycling group revved their engines on the White House driveway Sunday during a visit with President Bush, who took about 10 bikers in jeans and leather jackets for an Oval Office tour.

People could hear the roar from bikers on the Mall nearby on the South Lawn, as eight motorcycles, headlights illuminated and American flags jutting off the rear seats, rolled up the driveway to the South Portico where Bush was waiting to greet them.

Bush shook hands with Artie Muller, president of the veterans' advocacy group, and kissed Muller's rider, singer Nancy Sinatra, a veterans' supporter, who was dressed in a skirt, cowboy boots and a pair of dark shades.

Later, Bush addressed, via a telephone hookup, a Rolling Thunder rally at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in the capital.

The president noted the letter of endorsement he received from the group last week. "Artie, I thought you were going to offer me riding lessons," Bush joked, thanking Rolling Thunder for backing his re-election campaign.

"Ride safe," he told them.

Other bikers who rode up the driveway included White House budget director Josh Bolton, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi, and various Rolling Thunder leaders.

The group endorsed Bush in 2000 over Democrat Al Gore, a Vietnam veteran. This year, they chose Bush, who served stateside in the Texas Air National Guard during Vietnam, over John Kerry, a decorated veteran of the same war who is also a motorcycle enthusiast.

In November 2003, the Democratic presidential hopeful borrowed a Harley-Davidson cycle and rode onto the stage of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

For the past 15 years, the group has announced its arrival with the roar of motorcycles -- not unlike the sound of the 1965 bombing campaign against North Vietnam that was called Operation Rolling Thunder.

Rolling Thunder is an organization dedicated to creating awareness of POW/MIA issues, promoting legislation to increase veterans' benefits, and volunteering time, food, and clothing to veterans and local communities. Rolling Thunder has 70 chapters and over 7,000 members throughout the United States and abroad.

"In the Oval Office, I looked you in the eye as you told me of your relentless pursuit of finding out the plight of many of our POW/MIAs, and I appreciated so much your concern, your care and your persistence," Bush told the rally. "I also want to thank you and your organization, Artie, for honoring the men and women of our military who fight today in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Gary Scheffmeyer, vice president of Rolling Thunder, said the president showed the group around his office, pointing out busts of presidents and paintings. Scheffmeyer said they chatted for about a half hour with Bush about the war in Iraq and terrorism. The bikers talked about veterans' health benefits and soldiers still missing from Vietnam.

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