

EXERCISES - PASSIVES

1. Correct any verb forms which are impossible or inappropriate:

- a) A lot of homes in the area have been being broken into by burglars.
- b) As I drove south, I could see that the old road was rebuilding.
- c) I suppose the letter will have been delivered by now.
- d) There is nothing more annoying than been interrupted when you are speaking.
- e) Jim was been given the sack from his new job.
- f) Somehow without my noticing my wallet had been disappeared.
- g) The new shopping centre was opened by the local MP.
- h) Harry is been questioned by the police about the accident.
- i) A lot of meetings have been held, but nothing has being decided yet.
- j) Last week it is decided not to have an office party after all.

2. Complete the second sentence with the passive:

- a) The crowd was slowly filling the huge stadium. The huge stadium ... by the crowd.
- b) The invention of the computer simplified the work of accountants. Since the computer ... the work of accountants ... simplified.
- c) Someone suggested that the shop should close. It ... that the shop should close.
- d) "I'd take out some travel insurance if I were you, Mr Smith." Mr Smith ... take out some travel insurance.
- e) The waitress will bring your drinks in a moment. Your drinks ... in a moment.
- f) Someone used a knife to open this window. This window ... a knife.
- g) You will hear from us when we have finished dealing with your complaint. After your complaint ..., you will hear from us.
- h) An announcement of their engagement appeared in the local paper. Their engagement ... in the local paper.
- i) Nobody ever heard anything of David again. Nothing ... David again.
- j) They paid Sheila £1000 as a special bonus. £1000 ... Sheila as a special bonus.

3. Rewrite the sentences using a passive and not using the words underlined:

- a) Someone left the phone off the hook all night.
- b) The government has announced that petrol prices will rise tomorrow.
- c) A burglar broke into our house last week.
- d) People asked me the way three times.
- e) The fruit-pickers pick the apples early in the morning.
- f) It's time the authorities did something about this problem.
- g) Lots of people had parked their cars on the pavement.
- h) The government agreed with the report and so they changed the law.

- i) You have to fill in an application form.
- j) They don't know what happened to the ship.

4. Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense form passive:

- a) The boxes ... (not pack) yet.
- b) Your food ... (still prepare)
- c) The new ship ... (launch) next week.
- d) Luckily by the time we got there the painting ... (not sell).
- e) We had to go on holiday because our house ... (decorate).
- f) I'm afraid that next week's meeting ... (cancel).
- g) If we don't hurry, all the tickets ... (sell) by the time we get there.
- h) All main courses ... (serve) with vegetables or salad.
- i) The second goal ... (score) by Hughes in the 41st minute.
- j) The cathedral ... (build) in the fourteenth century.

5. Underline any use of the agent which is unnecessary:

- a) My jewellery has been stolen by a thief!
- b) It has been decided by the school that Wednesday will be a school holiday.
- c) Harry was pushed over by someone standing next to him in the queue.
- d) The goods are transported by rail to our warehouse in the Midlands.
- e) I was told by someone that you have a vacancy for a computer operator.
- f) Sue has been picked by the selectors for the national team.
- g) The letter was sent by post on the 21st of last month.
- h) The larger portrait was painted by a little-known Flemish artist.
- i) It has been agreed by everyone that no smoking should be allowed.
- j) As I arrived at the conference a note was handed to me by one of the delegates.

6. Complete the second sentence so that the meaning stays the same:

- a) A friend lent George the motorbike he rode in the race. The motorbike George rode in the race
- b) At the time my aunt was looking after the children. At the time our children
- c) The police have issued a description of the wanted man. A description
- d) It was a mistake to enter Brian for the exam. Brian should not
- e) They said they would rather Diana didn't listen to music at work. Diana
- f) Johnson first became a member of parliament in 1983. Johnson was first
- g) My legal advisers have told me not to say more at this time. I have
- h) Nobody had invited Jean to the party, which annoyed her. As she
- i) Tony has another six months to finish his thesis. Tony has been
- j) There is no definite decision yet about the venue of the next Olympic Games. Nothing

7. Rewrite each sentence in a more formal style so that it contains a passive form of the word given in brackets:

- a) Sorry, but we've lost your letter. (MISLAY)
- b) The police are grilling Harry down at the station. (QUESTION)
- c) They've found the remains of an old Roman villa nearby. (DISCOVER)
- d) You'll get a rise in salary after six months. (RAISE)
- e) You go in the cathedral from the south door. (ENTER)
- f) They stopped playing the match after half an hour. (ABANDON)
- g) They've stopped the traffic from using the centre. (BAN)
- h) They took Chris to court for dangerous driving. (PROSECUTE)
- i) You usually eat this kind of fish with a white sauce. (SERVE)
- j) I don't know your name. (INTRODUCE)

8. Put each verb into the appropriate passive tense form:

- a)