

Passive Voice – Test 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30



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Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Passive forms across tenses

Choose the correct passive form to complete each sentence.

- Every December, the town's main square _____ with thousands of coloured lights.
A is decorated **B** decorates **C** is decorating **D** has decorated
- Please wait outside – the patient _____ by the doctor.
A is examining **B** is being examined **C** is been examined **D** has examined
- The first email _____ in 1971, long before most people had a computer at home.
A was sent **B** is sent **C** has been sent **D** was sending
- Don't worry about the dishes – they _____.
A have already been washed **B** have already washed
C are already washing **D** had already been wash
- The road was closed for a week because a new water pipe _____ underneath it.
A was being installed **B** was installing
C is installed **D** has been installing
- Before the guests arrived, the tables _____ and the candles had been lit.
A had been set **B** have been set **C** had set **D** were setting
- The old cinema _____ into a supermarket – the plans were approved yesterday.
A is going to be turned **B** is going to turn
C will turned **D** is turning being
- Which part of the sentence is wrong? 'English is spoke in many countries as a second language.'
A is **B** spoke **C** in **D** as

Part 2: Negatives, questions, modals and the agent

Choose the correct option for each question.

- Which sentence is grammatically correct?
A The accident was happened late at night.
B The accident happened late at night.
C The accident has been happened late at night.
D The accident was happening by the driver late at night.

10. A: 'Why are you walking? Where's your car?' B: '_____'
- A** It's been towed away – I parked in the wrong place.
B It's towed away – I parked in the wrong place.
C It has towed away – I parked in the wrong place.
D It was towing away – I parked in the wrong place.
11. The parcel _____ yet, so I can't tell you what's inside.
- A** hasn't been opened **B** hasn't opened **C** isn't been opened **D** didn't open
12. You want to know when a famous novel was written. Which question is correct?
- A** When was this novel written? **B** When was written this novel?
C When did this novel written? **D** When this novel was written?
13. Where _____ the conference _____ held next spring?
- A** will / be **B** will / being **C** is / been **D** does / be
14. This jacket _____ in a washing machine – it has to be dry-cleaned.
- A** can't be washed **B** can't wash **C** can't been washed **D** can't be washing
15. The fire alarm went off, but there was no fire. It _____ by steam from the shower.
- A** must have been triggered **B** must be triggered
C must have triggered **D** must had been triggered
16. Which sentence is correct?
- A** The letter was written by a pen.
B The letter was written with a pen by my grandfather.
C The letter was written from my grandfather.
D The letter was written of my grandfather.

Part 3: Advanced passive structures

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence or answer each question.

17. Which part of the sentence is wrong? 'The new rules haven't been explain to the staff yet.'
- A** haven't **B** been **C** explain **D** to
18. Don't worry, your dog will be well _____ while you're away.
- A** looked after **B** looked **C** looked after it **D** after looked
19. Why _____ the staff _____ about the changes earlier?
- A** weren't / told **B** didn't / told **C** weren't / tell **D** hadn't / telling
20. Active: 'The company gave each employee a bonus.' Which passive sentence is correct?
- A** Each employee was given a bonus. **B** Each employee was gave a bonus.
C Each employee given a bonus. **D** Each employee was given by a bonus.
21. People claim that the castle is haunted. → The castle is claimed _____ haunted.
- A** to be **B** being **C** to have **D** that is
22. Where do you usually _____ your hair cut?
- A** have **B** make **C** let **D** do
23. The singer is used to _____ by fans everywhere she goes.
- A** being recognised **B** recognising **C** be recognised **D** been recognised
24. Be careful with that vase – it could easily _____ broken.
- A** get **B** got **C** getting **D** gets

Part 4: Reading – passives in context

Read the text and choose the best answer to each question.

For more than a century, the old map of the Velden valley was thought to have been destroyed in a fire. Last spring, however, it was found by chance in a box of papers that had been kept in the basement of the town museum since the 1950s.

The discovery was made by Priya Nandakumar, a student who was being paid to sort through the museum's archives during her summer holidays. 'I knew immediately that it was something special,' she says. 'It had been folded very carefully and wrapped in cloth.'

Experts have since confirmed that the map was drawn in 1874. It is believed to be the only surviving record of several villages that were later flooded when a dam was built. Because the paper had been damaged by damp, the museum had the map restored by a specialist team in another city.

The map is now being displayed in a special exhibition, and copies can be ordered online. The museum hopes that the original will be seen by thousands of visitors before it has to be returned to storage to protect it from light.

25. According to the text, before last spring people believed that the map _____ in a fire.
- A had been destroyed B had destroyed
C was destroying D had been destroying
26. Which sentence means the same as 'the museum had the map restored by a specialist team'?
- A A specialist team restored the map for the museum.
B The museum restored the map itself.
C The museum had already restored the map before.
D A specialist team asked the museum to restore the map.
27. 'It is believed to be the only surviving record...' Which sentence has the same meaning?
- A People believe that it is the only surviving record.
B People believed that it had been the only surviving record.
C The map believes that it is the only surviving record.
D People are believed it is the only surviving record.
28. What does 'a student who was being paid to sort through the museum's archives' tell us?
- A The museum was paying her for this work at that time.
B She paid the museum so that she could see the archives.
C She was paid in advance but never did the work.
D She will be paid when the exhibition opens.
29. Which phrase from the text contains a passive with a modal verb?
- A copies can be ordered online B it was found by chance
C the map is now being displayed D the map was drawn in 1874
30. Which question about the text is grammatically correct?
- A Where had the box of papers been kept? B Where had the box of papers kept?
C Where had been kept the box of papers? D Where was the box of papers been kept?

Answer key – Passive Voice – Test 2

1 A	2 B	3 A	4 A	5 A	6 A	7 A	8 B	9 B	10 A
11 A	12 A	13 A	14 A	15 A	16 B	17 C	18 A	19 A	20 A
21 A	22 A	23 A	24 A	25 A	26 A	27 A	28 A	29 A	30 A

Explanations

- A** – This is a regular action done to the square, so we need the present simple passive: is + past participle.
- B** – The action is happening now and is done to the patient, so we need the present continuous passive: is being + past participle.
- A** – A finished past time (in 1971) requires the past simple passive: was + past participle.
- A** – The present perfect passive (have been + past participle) describes a completed action with a present result.
- A** – The installation was in progress at a past time, so we need the past continuous passive: was being + past participle.
- A** – The action was completed before another past event, so we need the past perfect passive, like 'had been lit'.
- A** – A planned future action done to the cinema takes 'going to be' + past participle.
- B** – The passive needs the past participle 'spoken', not the past simple 'spoke'.
- B** – 'Happen' is intransitive (it has no object), so it cannot be used in the passive.
- A** – The car is the receiver of a recent action with a present result, so we need the present perfect passive: has been towed.
- A** – The negative present perfect passive is hasn't been + past participle; a parcel cannot open itself.
- A** – In passive questions the auxiliary 'was' comes before the subject, followed by the past participle.
- A** – The future passive question is formed with will + subject + be + past participle.
- A** – A passive with a modal verb takes modal + be + past participle.
- A** – For a logical conclusion about a past passive action, we use must have been + past participle.
- B** – We use 'by' for the person who does the action and 'with' for the tool used.
- C** – After 'been' we need the past participle 'explained', not the base form.
- A** – With prepositional verbs in the passive, the preposition stays directly after the verb and no object follows.
- A** – A negative past simple passive question uses weren't + subject + past participle.
- A** – With two objects, the person often becomes the subject, followed by was + the past participle 'given'.
- A** – In reporting passives, the verb (claimed, said, believed) is followed by a to-infinitive: is claimed to be.
- A** – The causative 'have something done' means someone else does a service for you.
- A** – 'Be used to' is followed by an -ing form, so the passive gerund 'being recognised' is needed.
- A** – After a modal verb we use the base form, so the get-passive here is 'could get broken'.
- A** – 'Was thought to have been destroyed' means people believed it had been destroyed earlier, which needs the past perfect passive.
- A** – The causative 'have something done' means the museum arranged for someone else to do the work.
- A** – 'It is believed to be' is a reporting passive that means 'people believe that it is' now.
- A** – The past continuous passive shows that she was receiving payment for the work during that period.
- A** – 'Can be ordered' follows the pattern modal + be + past participle.
- A** – A past perfect passive question is formed with had + subject + been + past participle.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after teaching passive forms across tenses, or as a diagnostic before moving on to reporting structures. The distractors target typical B2 errors: wrong past participles, a missing 'be' or 'been', passive forms of intransitive verbs, wrong word order in questions, and confusion between 'by' and 'with'. As follow-up, ask students to rewrite the reading text in the active voice and discuss which version sounds more natural, and why.