

EXERCISES ON THE PASSIVE

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A. Change the following sentences, active to passive or passive to active.

1. They make VW cars in Germany. _____
2. Rice is grown in China. _____
3. Bell invented the telephone in 1876. _____
4. Two pictures were stolen from the museum last night. _____

5. They have built three new factories this year. _____
6. The picture has been sold for £3,000 _____
7. The factory will produce 10,000 cars next year. _____

8. Were many cars made last year? _____
9. Bell didn't invent the television. _____

B. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense, active or passive, to fit the meaning of the text.

Nylon _____ (invent) in the early 1930s by an American chemist, Julian Hill. Other scientists _____ (work) with his invention and finally on 27 October 1938, Nylon _____ (introduce) to the world. It was cheap and strong and immediately _____ (become) successful, especially in the making of ladies' stockings.

During the Second World War, the best present for many women was a pair of nylon stockings, but more importantly, it _____ (use) to make parachutes and tyres.

Today, nylon _____ (find) in many things: carpets, ropes, seat belts, furniture, computers, etc. It _____ (play) an important part in our lives for over 50 years. Next year about 36 million tons of it _____ (manufacture)

C. Complete the sentences with a pasive construction, using the verbs given and in the form suggested. (the term «infinitive» includes the infinitive without «to»).

1. Much of London _____ (destroy) by fire in the seventeenth century. (past simple).
2. The man who _____ (bite) by a snake was given a serum. (past perfect)
3. A leader should be a man who can _____ (respected). (infinitive)
4. Many slums _____ (demolish) to make way for new buildings. (present continuous)
5. The police _____ (instruct) to take firm action against hooligans. (present perfect)
6. He _____ (save) from bankruptcy by the kindness of a friend. (past simple)
7. A great deal of research _____ (do) into the possible causes of cancer. (present perfect)
8. It _____ (think) that the Government would do something to help. (past perfect)
9. Because of a strike, work on the building had to _____ (discontinued). (infinitive)
10. The new proposals _____ (discuss) at our next meeting. (future)

D. Rewrite the following sentences in the passive.

1. They gave up the search after three hours. _____
2. Someone should look into the matter. _____
3. Don't speak until someone speaks to you. _____
4. Someone hasn't stuck this stamp on very firmly. _____

5. The police had to break the meeting up. _____
6. The milkman brings the milk to my door but the postman leaves the letters in the hall.

7. We never saw him in the dining room . A maid took all his meals up to him.

8. Has someone posted my parcel? _____
9. They had tried it many times, but they didn't succeed. _____
10. They can't repair your clock. _____
11. They threw away the rubbish. _____
12. An earthquake destroyed the town. _____
13. The police shouldn't allow people to park there _____

14. Candidates may not use dictionaries. _____

