

Exercises on the passive voice - simple present

Dialogue in the simple present

Complete the short dialogue with the correct forms of the verbs.

A: English _____ (speak) as a second language by a lot of people.

B: Yes, English _____ (understand) all over the world.

A: In Switzerland four language _____ (speak) but not English.

Passive sentences

Put in the correct form of the in the passive voice.

1. A lot of T-shirts _____ (make) of cotton.
2. The cotton _____ (grow) in America.
3. It _____ (pick) by machines.
4. The cotton _____ (take) to a factory.
5. The clothes _____ (sell) in the USA and all over the world.
6. Cotton T-shirts _____ (buy) by people who like comfortable clothes.

Passive sentences with adverbs

Put in the correct form of the verb in the passive voice with an adverb.



Was ist denn bloß wieder ein Adverb?

Ein Adverb beschreibt ein Verb (Tunwort) näher.

1. T-shirts _____ (usually wash) in a washing machine or by hand.
2. They _____ (often make) in lots of different colours.
3. The maker's name _____ (often put) on the front.
4. A picture _____ (sometimes print) on the front of T-shirts.
5. T-shirts _____ (often sell) in supermarkets.
6. They _____ (also find) at markets, airports and in souvenir shops.

Negative passive sentences

Use the passive voice with *not* or *never* to answer the questions. Use the verb from the question.



Wenn man allgemein sprechen will, kann man z.B. statt "People say..." "It is said" sagen. Das entspricht "Man sagt..." im Deutschen.

1. Do people know who invented the T-shirt? - No, it _____.
2. Do people think it came from India? - No, it _____ that it's Indian.
3. Do people say it is uncomfortable? - No, _____ it is uncomfortable.
4. Do people believe it came from army clothes? - No, _____ to have come from the army but from the US Navy.
5. Do we know if it is "T-shirt" or "tee-shirt"? - No, _____ which is correct.

A report in passive voice

*Every year Mr and Mrs Hooper go on a trip to London.
Put in the verbs in the passive voice.*

1. Mr and Mrs Hooper _____ (take) by car to the station.
2. In London they _____ (meet) by a car and a driver from the train.
3. They _____ (take) to a nice hotel and have dinner.
4. They _____ (collect) by car.
5. They _____ (drive) to a theatre and back again after the play.
6. The trip _____ (pay for) by their son.

Active or passive?

a) Read the following text and underline all the verbs in the passive voice.

Books are made on big machines. First, the writer puts words and pictures on a computer. These are sent to a publishers, a company that makes and sells books. There the text is carefully checked. This text is passed on to a printer who puts the words on paper. This is done by different methods. Which method is used? That depends. Some books are printed like newspapers on huge rolls of paper. The printer makes these books quite cheaply, but in large numbers. The pages of the book are cut by machine and are sorted into the correct order. Then the cover is put on. Now the publishers sell the book to bookshops and readers.

b) Now look at the sentences in the active voice (you haven't underlined the verbs in these sentences). Circle the verb and a double line under the object. The object of the active sentence is going to become the subject of a new passive sentence. Example:

First, the writer puts words and pictures on a computer. - First, words and pictures are put on a computer.

Do this with four more active sentences from the text.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Some information on the trip to Yosemite National Park

Put in the verbs in the passive voice.

Yosemite _____ (visit) by millions of people every year. We'll cross the park on Highway 120 but this road _____ (close) by snow in winter. We won't use our bus in Yosemite Valley because tourists _____ (take) to all the sights there by free park buses. In California earthquakes _____ (feel) by millions every year and buildings, roads and bridges _____ sometimes _____ (destroy) In bad earthquakes people _____ (kill), too.