



Active to Passive Conversion: Phrasal Verbs & Non-Passivizable Sentences

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- Active: "A babysitter looks after the children every evening." Choose the correct passive:
 - The children are looked by a babysitter every evening.
 - The children are looked after by a babysitter every evening.
 - The children are after looked by a babysitter every evening.
 - The children look after by a babysitter every evening.
- Active: "The accident happened at midnight." Can this sentence be made passive?
 - Yes — "At midnight was happened the accident."
 - Yes — "The accident was happened at midnight."
 - Yes — "It was happened at midnight."
 - No — 'happen' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.
- Active: "The whole class laughed at the clown." Choose the correct passive:
 - The clown was laughed at by the whole class.
 - The clown was laughed by the whole class.
 - The clown was at laughed by the whole class.
 - The clown laughed at by the whole class.
- Active: "Her grandparents brought her up in the countryside." Choose the correct passive:
 - She was brought by her grandparents up in the countryside.
 - She was up brought by her grandparents in the countryside.
 - She was brought up by her grandparents in the countryside.
 - She brought up by her grandparents in the countryside.
- Active: "The baby slept for twelve hours." Can this sentence be made passive?
 - No — 'sleep' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.
 - Yes — "Twelve hours were slept by the baby."
 - Yes — "It was slept for twelve hours by the baby."
 - Yes — "For twelve hours was slept by the baby."
- Active: "The committee will look into the matter." Choose the correct passive:
 - The matter will be looked by the committee into.
 - The matter will be into looked by the committee.
 - The matter will looked into by the committee.
 - The matter will be looked into by the committee.
- Active: "They called off the meeting at the last minute." Choose the correct passive:
 - The meeting was called at the last minute off.
 - The meeting was called off at the last minute.
 - The meeting called off at the last minute.
 - The meeting was off called at the last minute.

8. Active: "Nobody has dealt with the complaint yet." Choose the correct passive:
- The complaint hasn't been dealt yet.
 - The complaint hasn't dealt with yet.
 - The complaint wasn't been dealt with yet.
 - The complaint hasn't been dealt with yet.
9. Active: "The train arrived late because of the snow." Can this sentence be made passive?
- Yes — "Late was arrived by the train because of the snow."
 - No — 'arrive' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.
 - Yes — "It was arrived late because of the snow."
 - Yes — "The snow was arrived by the train."
10. Active: "Someone broke into our house while we were on holiday." Choose the correct passive:
- Our house was broken while we were on holiday.
 - Our house was into broken while we were on holiday.
 - Our house was broken into while we were on holiday.
 - Our house broke into while we were on holiday.
11. Active: "The students talked about the issue for hours." Choose the correct passive:
- The issue was talked about by the students for hours.
 - The issue was talked by the students about for hours.
 - The issue was about talked by the students for hours.
 - The issue talked about by the students for hours.
12. Active: "She resembles her mother." Can this sentence be made passive?
- Yes — "Her mother is resembled by her."
 - Yes — "Her mother resembles by her."
 - No — 'resemble' is a stative verb that does not take a passive form.
 - Yes — "Her mother is being resembled by her."
13. Active: "The manager is looking into the complaints." Choose the correct passive:
- The complaints are looked into by the manager.
 - The complaints are being looked into by the manager.
 - The complaints are being looked by the manager into.
 - The complaints is being looked into by the manager.
14. Active: "They have put off the decision until next week." Choose the correct passive:
- The decision has been put until next week off.
 - The decision has put off until next week.
 - The decision had been put off until next week.
 - The decision has been put off until next week.
15. Active: "The fire spread quickly through the building." Can this sentence be made passive?
- Yes — "The building was spread through by the fire quickly."
 - No — 'spread' is used intransitively here (no object), so it cannot be made passive.
 - Yes — "Quickly was spread the fire through the building."
 - Yes — "The building was spread quickly by the fire."
16. Active: "Someone must take care of the elderly patients." Choose the correct passive:
- The elderly patients must be taken care of.
 - The elderly patients must be taken care.
 - The elderly patients must taken care of.
 - The elderly patients must be care taken of.

17. Active: "The police are looking for the missing child." Choose the correct passive:
- a) The missing child is being looked by the police for.
 - b) The missing child is looked for by the police.
 - c) The missing child is being for looked by the police.
 - d) The missing child is being looked for by the police.
18. Active: "They have carried out the experiment successfully." Choose the correct passive:
- a) The experiment has been carried successfully out.
 - b) The experiment has carried out successfully.
 - c) The experiment has been carried out successfully.
 - d) The experiment was been carried out successfully.
19. Active: "This dress doesn't fit me." Can this sentence be made passive?
- a) Yes — "I am not fitted by this dress."
 - b) No — 'fit' (= be the right size) is a stative verb that is not used in the passive.
 - c) Yes — "I don't fitted by this dress."
 - d) Yes — "I am not being fitted by this dress."
20. Active: "The teacher sent for the student's parents." Choose the correct passive:
- a) The student's parents were sent for by the teacher.
 - b) The student's parents were sent by the teacher for.
 - c) The student's parents sent for by the teacher.
 - d) The student's parents were for sent by the teacher.



Answers

1. b) The children are looked after by a babysitter every evening.
2. d) No — 'happen' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.
3. a) The clown was laughed at by the whole class.
4. c) She was brought up by her grandparents in the countryside.
5. a) No — 'sleep' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.
6. d) The matter will be looked into by the committee.
7. b) The meeting was called off at the last minute.
8. d) The complaint hasn't been dealt with yet.
9. b) No — 'arrive' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.
10. c) Our house was broken into while we were on holiday.
11. a) The issue was talked about by the students for hours.
12. c) No — 'resemble' is a stative verb that does not take a passive form.
13. b) The complaints are being looked into by the manager.
14. d) The decision has been put off until next week.
15. b) No — 'spread' is used intransitively here (no object), so it cannot be made passive.
16. a) The elderly patients must be taken care of.
17. d) The missing child is being looked for by the police.
18. c) The experiment has been carried out successfully.
19. b) No — 'fit' (= be the right size) is a stative verb that is not used in the passive.
20. a) The student's parents were sent for by the teacher.



Explanations

1. “The children are looked after by a babysitter every evening.” (b)

Phrasal verb 'look after': the preposition 'after' must stay with the verb in the passive. 'Are looked after' — never separate the verb from its particle.

2. “No — 'happen' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.” (d)

'Happen' is an intransitive verb — it has no object. Only transitive verbs (verbs with an object) can be made passive. Other examples: arrive, die, sleep, exist.

3. “The clown was laughed at by the whole class.” (a)

Prepositional verb 'laugh at': the preposition 'at' must stay with the verb. 'Was laughed at' — the preposition doesn't move to another position.

4. “She was brought up by her grandparents in the countryside.” (c)

Phrasal verb 'bring up' (= raise a child): the particle 'up' stays with 'brought'. 'Was brought up' — never separate the verb and particle in passive.

5. “No — 'sleep' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.” (a)

'Sleep' is intransitive — 'for twelve hours' is a time expression, not an object. You cannot say 'Twelve hours were slept'. Only verbs with a direct object can be made passive.

6. “The matter will be looked into by the committee.” (d)

Phrasal verb 'look into' (= investigate): the preposition 'into' stays with the verb. Future passive: 'will be looked into'.

7. “The meeting was called off at the last minute.” (b)

Phrasal verb 'call off' (= cancel): the particle 'off' stays with 'called' in the passive. 'Was called off' — agent 'they' is omitted.

8. “The complaint hasn't been dealt with yet.” (d)

Phrasal verb 'deal with': the preposition 'with' stays attached. Present perfect passive negative: 'hasn't been dealt with'. 'Nobody' → negative 'hasn't'.

9. “No — 'arrive' is intransitive and has no object, so it cannot be made passive.” (b)

'Arrive' is intransitive — it does not take a direct object. 'Late' is an adverb, not an object. Intransitive verbs cannot be converted to passive voice.

10. “Our house was broken into while we were on holiday.” (c)

Phrasal verb 'break into' (= enter illegally): the preposition 'into' stays with the verb. 'Was broken into' — agent 'someone' is omitted.

11. “The issue was talked about by the students for hours.” (a)

Prepositional verb 'talk about': the preposition 'about' must stay with the verb. 'Was talked about' — the preposition never moves away from the verb.

12. “No — 'resemble' is a stative verb that does not take a passive form.” (c)

'Resemble' is transitive but is a stative verb that describes a state, not an action. It is not used in the passive. Other similar verbs: have (= possess), suit, fit, lack.

13. “The complaints are being looked into by the manager.” (b)

Present continuous passive of phrasal verb 'look into': 'are being looked into'. 'The complaints' is plural → 'are'. The preposition 'into' stays with 'looked'.

14. “The decision has been put off until next week.” (d)

Phrasal verb 'put off' (= postpone): present perfect passive → 'has been put off'. The particle 'off' stays with 'put'. 'Has' (not 'had') matches present perfect.

15. “No — 'spread' is used intransitively here (no object), so it cannot be made passive.” (b)

'Spread' can be transitive or intransitive. Here it is intransitive — there is no direct object (the fire spreads by itself). 'Through the building' is a prepositional phrase, not an object.

16. “The elderly patients must be taken care of.” (a)

Phrasal verb 'take care of': all three words stay together in the passive. Modal passive: 'must be taken care of'. Agent 'someone' is omitted.

17. “The missing child is being looked for by the police.” (d)

Prepositional verb 'look for': the preposition 'for' stays with the verb. Present continuous passive: 'is being looked for'.

18. “The experiment has been carried out successfully.” (c)

Phrasal verb 'carry out' (= conduct/perform): the particle 'out' stays with 'carried'. Present perfect passive: 'has been carried out'. Agent 'they' is omitted.

19. “No — 'fit' (= be the right size) is a stative verb that is not used in the passive.” (b)

When 'fit' means 'be the right size/shape', it is stative and cannot be made passive. (Note: 'fit' meaning 'install' CAN be passive — e.g. 'A new lock was fitted'.)

20. “The student's parents were sent for by the teacher.” (a)

Prepositional verb 'send for' (= ask someone to come): the preposition 'for' stays with the verb. 'Were sent for' — never separate the verb from its preposition in the passive.