



## Passive Voice Basics: Recognizing Passive Voice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- Which sentence is in the passive voice?
  - The children ate the cake.
  - The cake was eaten by the children.
  - The children are eating cake.
  - The children eat cake every day.
- Which sentence is in the active voice?
  - The plants are watered every day.
  - My mother waters the plants every day.
  - The plants were watered this morning.
  - The garden is cleaned once a week.
- "The report was written by the secretary." This sentence is \_\_\_\_.
  - active
  - both active and passive
  - passive
  - neither active nor passive
- "Someone stole my bicycle." This sentence is \_\_\_\_.
  - active
  - passive
  - both active and passive
  - neither active nor passive
- Choose the correct passive form: "They clean the office every day." →
  - The office cleaned every day.
  - The office cleans every day.
  - The office is cleaned every day.
  - The office is cleaning every day.
- Which sentence is in the passive voice?
  - People speak Spanish in Mexico.
  - Mexicans speak Spanish.
  - Spanish is spoken in Mexico.
  - Many people learn Spanish.
- "The bridge \_\_\_\_ last year." Choose the correct passive form.
  - was repaired
  - repaired
  - has repaired
  - is repairing
- "Millions of people watch the World Cup." This sentence is \_\_\_\_.
  - passive
  - active
  - active and passive
  - impossible to tell
- Which sentence is NOT in the passive voice?
  - The boy was bitten by the dog.
  - The windows were broken.
  - The car was stolen last night.
  - The dog bit the boy.
- "The email \_\_\_\_ to all employees yesterday." Choose the correct form.
  - sent
  - sends
  - is sending
  - was sent
- Which sentence is in the passive voice?
  - The homework is checked by the teacher.
  - The students do their homework.
  - The teacher checks the homework.
  - Everyone finishes homework on time.

12. "New houses are built every year in this town." The verb form 'are built' is \_\_\_\_.
- a) present simple passive
  - b) past simple passive
  - c) present simple active
  - d) present continuous passive
13. "The thief was caught by the police." The verb form 'was caught' is \_\_\_\_.
- a) present simple passive
  - b) past simple passive
  - c) past simple active
  - d) past continuous passive
14. Which sentence is in the active voice?
- a) Our car was fixed yesterday.
  - b) The food is prepared in the kitchen.
  - c) The door was locked at 10 p.m.
  - d) The mechanic fixed our car.
15. "The building \_\_\_\_ in 1990." Choose the correct form.
- a) was designed
  - b) is designed
  - c) designed
  - d) designs
16. How do you recognize a passive sentence? It usually contains \_\_\_\_.
- a) a subject that does the action
  - b) a form of 'be' + past participle
  - c) a form of 'do' + base verb
  - d) a form of 'have' + present participle
17. Which sentence is in the passive voice?
- a) The delivery man brought the packages.
  - b) I received a package today.
  - c) She opened the package carefully.
  - d) The packages were delivered this morning.
18. "Butter \_\_\_\_ from milk." Choose the correct passive form.
- a) makes
  - b) is made
  - c) made
  - d) is making
19. Which sentence is NOT in the passive voice?
- a) The students finished the test early.
  - b) The results are published online.
  - c) The test was finished early.
  - d) The answers were checked by the teacher.
20. "A lot of paper \_\_\_\_ every day in offices." Choose the correct passive form.
- a) uses
  - b) used
  - c) are used
  - d) is used



## Answers

1. b) The cake was eaten by the children.
2. b) My mother waters the plants every day.
3. c) passive
4. a) active
5. c) The office is cleaned every day.
6. c) Spanish is spoken in Mexico.
7. a) was repaired
8. b) active
9. d) The dog bit the boy.
10. d) was sent
11. a) The homework is checked by the teacher.
12. a) present simple passive
13. b) past simple passive
14. d) The mechanic fixed our car.
15. a) was designed
16. b) a form of 'be' + past participle
17. d) The packages were delivered this morning.
18. b) is made
19. a) The students finished the test early.
20. d) is used



# Explanations

**1. “The cake was eaten by the children.” (b)**

'The cake was eaten by the children' is passive because the subject (the cake) receives the action. The structure is: subject + was/were + past participle.

**2. “My mother waters the plants every day.” (b)**

'My mother waters the plants' is active because the subject (my mother) performs the action. Active = subject does the action.

**3. “passive” (c)**

The subject 'the report' receives the action of writing. Structure: was + past participle (written) = passive voice.

**4. “active” (a)**

The subject 'someone' performs the action of stealing. The doer comes first and does the action = active voice.

**5. “The office is cleaned every day.” (c)**

Active 'they clean' → Passive 'is cleaned' (is + past participle). The object 'the office' becomes the subject.

**6. “Spanish is spoken in Mexico.” (c)**

'Spanish is spoken' uses is + past participle. The subject (Spanish) receives the action — it is spoken by people.

**7. “was repaired” (a)**

'Last year' indicates past time. The bridge receives the action, so use past simple passive: was + past participle.

**8. “active” (b)**

The subject 'millions of people' performs the action of watching. Subject does the action = active voice.

**9. “The dog bit the boy.” (d)**

'The dog bit the boy' is active — the dog (subject) performs the action. The other sentences all use was/were + past participle.

**10. “was sent” (d)**

The email receives the action + past time ('yesterday'). Use past simple passive: was sent.

**11. “The homework is checked by the teacher.” (a)**

'The homework is checked' = is + past participle. The homework (subject) receives the action of checking.

**12. “present simple passive” (a)**

'Are built' = are + past participle. It describes a regular/habitual action in passive voice = present simple passive.

**13. “past simple passive” (b)**

'Was caught' = was + past participle. It describes a completed past action in passive voice = past simple passive.

**14. “The mechanic fixed our car.” (d)**

'The mechanic fixed our car' — the mechanic (subject) does the action of fixing. This is active voice.

**15. “was designed” (a)**

Past time ('in 1990') + the building receives the action = past simple passive: was designed.

**16. “a form of 'be' + past participle” (b)**

The passive voice is formed with: subject + be (am/is/are/was/were) + past participle. This is the key structure to recognize.

**17. “The packages were delivered this morning.” (d)**

'The packages were delivered' = were + past participle. The packages (subject) received the action of delivering.

**18. “is made” (b)**

This is a general fact. Butter receives the action of being made. Present simple passive: is + past participle.

**19. “The students finished the test early.” (a)**

'The students finished the test' is active — the students (subject) perform the action. All other options use be + past participle.

**20. “is used” (d)**

'A lot of paper' is singular/uncountable. Use 'is used' — present simple passive for a general fact.