



Answers

1. c) I was given a prize.
2. b) was sent
3. d) We were told the answer.
4. a) was offered
5. a) were shown the city
6. d) was given
7. d) was taught
8. b) She was given a book.
9. c) are paid
10. b) The teacher was explained the problem.
11. a) My neighbour told me the news.
12. c) was promised a promotion
13. b) are sent
14. d) were told a story
15. a) was awarded
16. b) is given
17. d) was told
18. c) suggest
19. c) were shown
20. a) was brought some flowers



Explanations

1. “I was given a prize.” (c)

With two-object verbs, the indirect object (me → I) can become the subject. 'I was given a prize' is the more common passive form.

2. “was sent” (b)

The indirect object 'her' becomes the subject 'she'. Past passive: 'She was sent a letter.'

3. “We were told the answer.” (d)

The indirect object 'us' becomes 'we' (subject). 'We were told the answer' is the natural passive form with 'tell'.

4. “was offered” (a)

'Him' becomes 'he' (subject) in passive. Past tense: 'He was offered a job.' This is a very common pattern in English.

5. “were shown the city” (a)

'The tourists' is plural, so use 'were shown'. The indirect object becomes the subject + was/were + past participle + direct object.

6. “was given” (d)

When the direct object (a prize) becomes the subject, we add 'to' before the indirect object. 'A prize was given to me.'

7. “was taught” (d)

'Me' becomes 'I' (subject). Past passive: 'I was taught English.' Teach-taught-taught is irregular.

8. “She was given a book.” (b)

Making the indirect object (person) the subject is the more common and natural pattern in English. 'She was given a book' sounds better than 'A book was given to her'.

9. “are paid” (c)

'The workers' is plural + present tense. Use 'are paid'. The workers (indirect object) become the subject.

10. “The teacher was explained the problem.” (b)

'Explain' cannot take two objects — we say 'explain something TO someone', not 'explain someone something'. So the passive must be 'The problem was explained to us', NOT 'The teacher was explained the problem'.

11. “My neighbour told me the news.” (a)

In the passive, 'I' (indirect object in active) is the subject. Reversing: the agent 'my neighbour' becomes the subject → 'My neighbour told me the news.'

12. “was promised a promotion” (c)

'Her' becomes 'she' (subject). Past passive: 'She was promised a promotion.' Promise takes two objects.

13. “are sent” (b)

'Us' becomes 'we' (plural) + present time ('every month'). Present simple passive: 'We are sent a bill.'

14. “were told a story” (d)

'The children' is plural + past tense. 'The children were told a story.' Tell-told-told.

15. “was awarded” (a)

'The scientist' is singular + past tense. 'The scientist was awarded a Nobel Prize.' The person receiving is the natural subject.

16. “is given” (b)

'Every student' is singular + present tense. Present simple passive: 'Every student is given a laptop.'

17. “was told” (d)

B is answering with a passive sentence. 'I' is singular + past context = 'was told'. The full answer: 'I was told about it by Sarah.'

18. “suggest” (c)

'Suggest' cannot take two objects — we say 'suggest something TO someone', not 'suggest someone something'. So we cannot say 'I was suggested a plan'. It must be 'A plan was suggested to me.' Other verbs like this include: explain, describe, announce.

19. “were shown” (c)

'The visitors' is plural + past tense. 'The visitors were shown the new building.' Show-showed-shown.

20. “was brought some flowers” (a)

'The patient' is singular + past tense. 'The patient was brought some flowers.' Bring-brought-brought.