

Quiz – Lesson 15 – Passives

Exercise 1: Passive voice – various verb tenses

Change these sentences to the passive voice, using **a form of the verb be + past participle of the main verb**. Warning – three of them can't be made passive.

Ex) Somebody gave me a form to fill out.

Passive: **I was given a form to fill out.**

1. Some people are having trouble understanding the instructions.

2. Someone will announce the winner of the contest tomorrow.

3. People report that the damage from the earthquake is extensive.

4. Hopefully, scientists will have cured cancer by the year 2050.

5. I was surprised when I heard that they had approved my scholarship application.

6. People are debating this issue around the world.

7. Journalists were bombarding the actor with questions.

8. Nobody has painted these walls yet.

9. Somebody finally took down the office Christmas decorations in February.

10. The government has passed a new law.

11. The course consists of 40 classes.

12. We held the event in a conference center.

13. Farm workers harvest the crops in October.

14. This club has existed for the past five years.

15. I'm not very athletic. Other kids always chose me last for sports teams.

Exercise 2: Passives with Modal Verbs

Complete each sentence with **a modal verb + be / have been + past participle**.

The modal verbs you can use are **must, might, may, can, could, and should**

Ex) The laws _____ (*obey*) by everyone, regardless of social status.
(*obligation – present*)

Answer: The laws **must be obeyed** by everyone, regardless of social status.

1. Karen hasn't come to work for the past week. She _____
(*fire*) - I'm not sure. (*uncertainty – past*)

2. This watch is so strong, it _____ (*drop*) from a height of 40 feet
without breaking. (*possibility – present*)

3. Cameras with flash _____ (*use*) during the performance.
(*prohibited – present*)

4. Papers _____ (*turn*) in by April 15. No assignments will
be accepted after the deadline. (*obligation – present*)

5. Some people _____ (*offend*) by the strong language in the movie. (*possibility – present*)
6. My air conditioner is broken. _____ it _____, or will I have to buy a new one? (*ability – present*)
7. I think that new immigrants _____ (*give*) more help and support. (*recommendation – present*)
8. I can't believe he got away with the crime! He _____ (*punish*). (*recommendation – past*)
9. If we had known about this problem earlier, it _____ (*resolve*). (*possibility – past*)
10. Some mysteries just _____ (*solve*). (*impossibility – present*)
11. Why is my trash can still full? It _____ (*empty*) by the cleaning crew. (*expectation – past*)
12. If you talk too fast, some of your words _____ (*misunderstand*). (*possibility – present*)

Writing Task

Write about one significant historical or cultural event in your country. When appropriate, you can use the passive voice. Send me your text at shayna@espressoenglish.net for feedback!

Answers – Quiz 15 - Passives

Exercise 1:

1. Cannot be passive
2. The winner of the contest will be announced tomorrow.
3. It is reported that the damage from the earthquake is extensive.
Or: The damage from the earthquake is reported to be extensive.
4. Hopefully, cancer will have been cured by the year 2050.
5. I was surprised when I heard that my scholarship application had been approved.
6. This issue is being debated around the world.
7. The actor was being bombarded with questions.
8. These walls haven't been painted yet.
9. The Christmas decorations were finally taken down in February.
10. A new law has been passed.
11. Cannot be passive
12. The event was held in a conference center.
13. The crops are harvested in October.
14. Cannot be passive
15. I'm not very athletic. I was always chosen last for team sports.

Exercise 2:

1. Karen hasn't come to work for the past week. She **might/may have been fired** - I'm not sure.
2. This watch is so strong, it **can be dropped** from a height of 40 feet without breaking.
3. Cameras with flash **may not / can't be used** during the performance.
4. Papers **must be turned** in by April 15. No assignments will be accepted after the deadline.
5. Some people **might/could/may be offended** by the strong language in the movie.
6. My air conditioner is broken. **Can it be fixed**, or will I have to buy a new one?
7. I think that new immigrants **should be given** more help and support.
8. I can't believe he got away with the crime! He **should have been punished**.
9. If we had known about this problem earlier, it **could have been resolved**.
10. Some mysteries just **can't be solved**.
11. Why is my trash can still full? It **should have been emptied** by the cleaning crew. (*expectation – past*)
12. If you talk too fast, some of your words **might/could/may be misunderstood**.

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