

## Practice Test Topic 37: The passive voice

### ACTIVITY 1

Use the verbs in the active or passive in the correct tense to complete the following passage. Pay attention to the position of adverbs.

Before Victoria, British sovereigns (EXPECT)..... both to reign and to rule. But when political parties began to compete under rules as strict as those for cricket, the sovereign (SEND OFF)..... the playing field for ever. He could not take the side of any party lest he (DEFEAT) ..... with it. With certain ritual functions, the sovereign's task was to act as a sort of supreme weapon, never (USED) ..... but there always as the source of order. He had to represent the authority he could not command. But, in theory at least, if Parliament had decreed that he (EXECUTE) ....., he (BE BOUND) ..... constitutionally to sign his own death warrant. King Edward VII (BE BORN) ..... while this odd and excellent system (CHANGE) ....., and played the King to the hilt even though his influence (LIMIT) ..... severely. He (BE BORN) ..... to Victoria and Albert on 2 December 1841.

### ACTIVITY 2

Complete the following in a suitable active or passive tense using the verbs given.

A soldier (SHOOT) ..... and critically wounded as he (SIT) ..... in his car outside an army careers office in north London yesterday. Two men who (BELIEVE) ..... to be members of a terrorist organization, (APPROACH) ..... his car on a motorcycle just after 1 pm. The pillion passenger (RUN) ..... towards the car, which (PARK) ..... outside the office. He (SHOOT) ..... the soldier three times, then (RUN) ..... back to the motorcycle and (FLEE) ..... in the rush-hour traffic. The victim, a 28-year-old married man, (HIT) ..... in the chest. He (SAY) ..... to be in a critical but stable condition in hospital.

Anti-terrorist detectives later (CORDON) ..... off the area. 'This attack (PLAN well) ..... and it is likely that the office (TARGET) ..... for some time.'

A motorcycle later (FIND) ..... abandoned about ten miles away, but it (not KNOW) ..... yet whether this was the getaway machine.

### **ACTIVITY 3**

**Put the verbs in brackets into an appropriate form of the passive or the active voice.**

In the past few years various kinds of nuclear weapons ..... (PRODUCE) by many countries. This is a new and terrible development in the history of man. In the event of any nuclear war, thousands of towns could ..... (DESTROY), and very few people could be expected ..... (SURVIVE). When nuclear energy ..... (DEVELOP) earlier in this century, few people considered its negative potential. They thought it would ..... (ONLY, USE) for peaceful purposes, not for war. But now these idealistic people ..... (SEE) ..... (BE) wrong. For in 1945 two atomic bombs ..... (DROP) on Japan, and it is possible that atomic weapons ..... (EMPLOY) in future wars. At the moment negotiations ..... (CONDUCT) between America and Russia to try and limit the development of these weapons. These talks ..... (USUALLY, HOLD) in a tense atmosphere, but everyone hopes that positive results ..... (ACHIEVE).

### **ACTIVITY 4**

**Put the following sentences into the passive voice.**

1. People say tortoises live longer than elephants.
2. I should love someone to take me out to dinner.
3. His grandmother brought him up, and he got his education in Paris (2 PASSIVES)
4. Naturally one expects you to interest yourself in the job they have offered you. (3 PASSIVES)
5. It must have disappointed him terribly that people told him they didn't want him. (3 PASSIVES)

6. They must have given you the paper they meant for the advanced candidates. (2 PASSIVES)

7. Someone had already promised me a watch for my birthday when they presented me with one as a prize. (2 PASSIVES)

8. It surprised me to hear somebody has robbed you. (2 PASSIVES)

9. When women have disappointed you as many times as they have him, you can truly say bad luck has dogged you. (3 PASSIVES)

10. We haven't moved anything since they sent you away to cure you. (3 PASSIVES)

#### **ACTIVITY 5**

**Translate the following sentences into English, using the passive voice.**

1. A Samuel Johnson, el gran lexicógrafo inglés, le concedieron una pensión de £300 al año en 1762.
2. El partido aplazado se jugará el 16 de enero o el 21 de febrero.
3. Entraron en mi casa para robar mientras yo estaba de viaje.
4. Me han robado la cartera y las llaves.

5. Discutieron durante horas, pero no se llegó a ningún acuerdo.
  
6. Si cortáramos ese árbol, se podría ver el mar desde la ventana del dormitorio.
  
7. Dicen que es el mejor alcalde que han tenido desde que se fundó la ciudad hace dos siglos.
  
8. Se les acusó de asesinato, Pero no fueron a prisión inmediatamente; el juez les concedió libertad bajo fianza.

## ANSWER KEY

### ACTIVITY 1

Before Victoria, British sovereigns (EXPECT) **WERE EXPECTED** both to reign and to rule. But when political parties began to compete under rules as strict as those for cricket, the sovereign (SEND OFF) **WAS SENT OFF** the playing field for ever. He could not take the side of any party lest he (DEFEAT) **HAD DEFEATED** with it. With certain ritual functions, the sovereign's task was to act as a sort of supreme weapon, never (USED) **TO BE USED** but there always as the source of order. He had to represent the authority he could not command. But, in theory at least, if Parliament had decreed that he (EXECUTE) **BE EXECUTED/WAS TO BE EXECUTED**, he (BE BOUND) **WOULD BE** constitutionally **BOUND** to sign his own death warrant. King Edward VII (BE BORN) **WAS BORN** while this odd and excellent system (CHANGE) **HAD CHANGED/WAS BEING CHANGED**, and played the King to the hilt even though his influence (LIMIT) **WAS** severely **LIMITED/HAD BEEN** severely **LIMITED** . He (BE BORN) **WAS BORN** to Victoria and Albert on 2 December 1841.

### ACTIVITY 2

A soldier (SHOOT) **WAS SHOT** and critically wounded as he (SIT) **WAS SITTING/SAT** in his car outside an army careers office in north London yesterday. Two men who (BELIEVE) **ARE BELIEVED** to be members of a terrorist organization, (APPROACH) **APPROACHED** his car on a motorcycle just after 1 pm. The pillion passenger (RUN) **RAN** towards the car, which (PARK) **WAS PARKED** outside the office. He (SHOOT) **SHOT** the soldier three times, then (RUN) **RAN** back to the motorcycle and (FLEE) **FLED** in the rush-hour traffic. The victim, a 28-year-old married man, (HIT) **WAS HIT** in the chest. He (SAY) **IS SAID** to be in a critical but stable condition in hospital.

Anti-terrorist detectives later (CORDON) **HAVE CORDONED/CORDONED** off the area. 'This attack (PLAN well) **WAS WELL PLANNED** and it is likely that the office (TARGET) **HAD BEEN TARGETED** for some time.'

A motorcycle later (FIND) **WAS LATER FOUND** abandoned about ten miles away, but it (not KNOW) **IS NOT KNOWN** yet whether this was the getaway machine.

### ACTIVITY 3

In the past few years various kinds of nuclear weapons **HAVE BEEN PRODUCED** (PRODUCE) by many countries. This is a new and terrible development in the history of man. In the event of any nuclear war, thousands of towns could **BE DESTROYED** (DESTROY), and very few people could be expected **TO SURVIVE** (SURVIVE). When nuclear energy **WAS DEVELOPED** (DEVELOP) earlier in this century, few people considered its negative potential. They thought it would **ONLY BE USED** (ONLY, USE) for peaceful purposes, not for war. But now these idealistic people **ARE SEEN** (SEE) **TO BE** (BE) wrong. For in 1945 two atomic bombs **WERE DROPPED** (DROP) on Japan, and it is possible that atomic weapons **WILL BE EMPLOYED** (EMPLOY) in future wars. At the moment negotiations **ARE BEING CONDUCTED** (CONDUCT) between America and Russia to try and limit the development of these weapons. These talks **ARE USUALLY**

**HELD** (USUALLY, HOLD) in a tense atmosphere, but everyone hopes that positive results **WILL BE ACHIEVED** (ACHIEVE).

#### ACTIVITY 4

1. People say tortoises live longer than elephants.  
Tortoises are said to live longer than elephants.
2. I should love someone to take me out to dinner.  
I should love to be taken out to dinner.
3. His grandmother brought him up, and he got his education in Paris (2 PASSIVES).  
He was brought up by his grandmother, and got educated in Paris.
4. Naturally one expects you to interest yourself in the job they have offered you. (3 PASSIVES)  
Naturally one is expected to be interested in the job they have been offered.  
Naturally you are expected to be interested in the job you have been offered.
5. It must have disappointed him terribly that people told him they didn't want him. (3 PASSIVES)  
He must have been terribly disappointed to be told he wasn't/isn't wanted.
6. They must have given you the paper they meant for the advanced candidates. (2 PASSIVES)  
You must have been given the paper meant for the advanced candidates.
7. Someone had already promised me a watch for my birthday when they presented me with one as a prize. (2 PASSIVES)  
I had already been promised a watch for my birthday when I was presented with one as a prize<sup>1</sup>.
8. It surprised me to hear somebody has robbed you. (2 PASSIVES)  
I was surprised to hear you have/had been robbed.
9. When women have disappointed you as many times as they have him, you can truly say bad luck has dogged you. (3 PASSIVES)  
When you have been disappointed by women as many times as he has, you can truly say you/to have been dogged by bad luck.
10. We haven't moved anything since they sent you away to cure you. (3 PASSIVES)  
Nothing has been moved since you were sent away to be cured.

#### ACTIVITY 5

**Translate the following sentences into English, using the passive voice.**

1. A Samuel Johnson, el gran lexicógrafo inglés, le concedieron una pensión de 300 £ al año en 1762.

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<sup>1</sup> You may suggest making "the watch" the subject of the passive (*when one was presented to me as a prize*). However, whenever possible, English prefers a personal subject. That is why the option *I was presented with one as a prize* is more suitable.

Samuel Johnson, the great English lexicographer, was given a yearly £300 pension / a pension of £300 a year in 1762.

2. El partido aplazado se jugará el 16 de enero o el 21 de febrero.  
The postponed match will be played on 16th January or 21st February.
3. Entraron en mi casa para robar mientras yo estaba de viaje.  
My house was broken into to rob while I was away on a journey/trip.
4. Me han robado la cartera y las llaves.  
I've been robbed of my wallet/purse and keys.
5. Discutieron durante horas, pero no se llegó a ningún acuerdo.  
They fell out/argued for hours, but no agreement was reached / an agreement was never reached.
6. Si cortáramos ese árbol, se podría ver el mar desde la ventana del dormitorio.  
If that tree was cut down, the sea could/would be seen from the bedroom window.
7. Dicen que es el mejor alcalde que han tenido desde que se fundó la ciudad hace dos siglos.  
He is said to be the best mayor they have had since the city was founded two centuries ago.
8. Se les acusó de asesinato, pero no fueron a prisión inmediatamente; el juez les concedió libertad bajo fianza.  
They were charged with / accused of murder, but they weren't sent to prison immediately; they were released on bail.