

The Passive

A Choose the correct answer.

1. A new law on health care (passed / was passed) by the government last month.
2. School uniforms (aren't worn / don't wear) at our school.
3. We (will meet / will be met) you at the station at 10 o'clock.
4. We believe that endangered animals (should be protected / should protect).
5. Notices (have sent / have been sent) to all the members of the club.
6. The offices (were cleaning / were being cleaned) all afternoon.
7. Dave (hadn't finished / hadn't been finished) the exam when the bell rang.
8. Dogs (mustn't take / mustn't be taken) into shops.

B Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Omit the agent when possible.

1. Both teams must agree on the date for the match.
.....
2. The postman may have delivered the letters to the wrong address.
.....
3. We didn't see the famous painting because somebody had stolen it.
.....
4. The doctor is examining the patient now.
.....
5. The prisoner escaped while the police were questioning him.
.....

C Correct the error in each of the sentences.

1. Why is that car being taking away by the police?
.....
2. A lot of food ate at the party.
.....
3. You shouldn't have been read my diary.
.....
4. This book mustn't take out of the library.
.....
5. John hasn't seen by anyone all week.
.....
6. English spoken in many countries of the world.
.....
7. His article will publish in tomorrow's newspaper.
.....
8. I couldn't enter the room because the floor was washing.
.....

D Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the active or passive.

Many people use the Internet, or the Net as it ¹..... (call). Some people consider it as an encyclopedia, which ²..... (can / use) to get information. However, when it ³..... (invent), the Internet had a different purpose. Until then, people ⁴..... (communicate) by radio and telephone, but these means of communication ⁵..... (not consider) safe ways of sending private messages. A new way of sending private or secret information ⁶..... (need). Researchers in the American Defence Department studied the problem, and in 1969 they ⁷..... (establish) the Internet. Since then, the Net has grown and changed. In recent years, it ⁸..... (use) for e-mail, shopping and chatting to people all over the world. Millions of people ⁹..... (connect) to it. Perhaps, in the future, phones ¹⁰..... (replace) entirely by e-mail, but for the time being, there are still many people who prefer to chat on the phone.

The Passive – Answers

- A**
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. was passed | 5. have been sent |
| 2. aren't worn | 6. were being cleaned |
| 3. will meet | 7. hadn't finished |
| 4. should be protected | 8. mustn't be taken |
- B**
1. The date for the match must be agreed on by both teams.
 2. The letters may have been delivered to the wrong address.
 3. We didn't see the famous painting because it had been stolen.
 4. The patient is being examined now.
 5. The prisoner escaped while he was being questioned.
- C**
1. Why is that car being taken away by the police?
 2. A lot of food was eaten at the party.
 3. You shouldn't have read my diary.
 4. This book mustn't be taken out of the library.
 5. John hasn't seen anyone all week. / John hasn't been seen by anyone all week.
 6. English is spoken in many countries of the world.
 7. His article will be published in tomorrow's newspaper.
 8. I couldn't enter the room because the floor was being washed.
- D**
- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. is called | 6. was needed |
| 2. can be used | 7. established |
| 3. was invented | 8. has been used |
| 4. had communicated | 9. are connected |
| 5. weren't considered /
were not considered | 10. will be replaced |