Active and Passive Voice

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which sentence is in the active voice?
   A. The crew raised the sail.
   B. The sail was raised.
   C. The sail is being raised.
   D. The sail has been raised.
   Correct answer: A. The crew raised the sail.
   The subject of the active sentence performs the action.

2. Which sentence is in the passive voice?
   A. Our neighbor delivered the parcel.
   B. The bicycle arrived before noon.
   C. The parcel was delivered before noon.
   D. The delivery van left at noon.
   Correct answer: C. The parcel was delivered before noon.
   Was delivered is be plus the past participle, with the receiver as subject.

3. In the passive version of ‘The children painted the fence,’ what is the grammatical subject?
   A. The children
   B. The fence
   C. Painted
   D. By the children
   Correct answer: B. The fence
   The object of painted becomes the subject in ‘The fence was painted by the children.’

4. Choose the passive rewrite of ‘Mira repaired the lantern.’
   A. The lantern has repaired Mira.
   B. Mira was repaired by the lantern.
   C. The lantern will be repaired by Mira.
   D. The lantern was repaired by Mira.
   Correct answer: D. The lantern was repaired by Mira.
   Was repaired retains simple past and puts the receiver in subject position.

5. How can ‘Workers sort the letters each evening’ be made passive without changing its tense?

A. The letters were sorted each evening.
B. The letters are sorted each evening.
C. The letters have been sorted each evening.
D. The workers are sorting the letters each evening.

Correct answer: B. The letters are sorted each evening.
Use are and the past participle sorted for the plural present-simple passive.

6. Who performed the action in ‘The hill was surveyed by a team of students’?

A. A team of students
B. The hill
C. The people reading the survey
D. The sentence leaves the agent unnamed

Correct answer: A. A team of students
The by-phrase identifies who carried out the action.

7. Which passive rewrite keeps an unknown actor unnamed: ‘Someone left the gate unlocked’?

A. The gate had left someone unlocked.
B. Someone was left unlocked by the gate.
C. The gate will be left unlocked by the caretaker.
D. The gate was left unlocked.

Correct answer: D. The gate was left unlocked.
The gate becomes the subject, and the passive can omit the unknown person.

8. Choose the passive equivalent of ‘They are testing the alarm now.’

A. The alarm was being tested now.
B. The alarm has been tested now.
C. The alarm is being tested now.
D. The alarm will be tested now.

Correct answer: C. The alarm is being tested now.
The present continuous passive uses is being and the past participle.

9. Choose the passive version of ‘Visitors must wear badges.’

A. Badges must be worn by visitors.
B. Badges must have worn visitors.
C. Badges have been worn by visitors.
D. Visitors must be worn by badges.

Correct answer: A. Badges must be worn by visitors.
The passive form after must uses be followed by worn.

10. Which passive rewrite keeps the meaning of ‘The judges did not count the late votes’?

A. The judges were not counted by the late votes.
B. The late votes had not counted the judges.
C. The late votes are not counted by the judges.
D. The late votes were not counted by the judges.

Correct answer: D. The late votes were not counted by the judges.
Were not counted preserves both the past tense and negation.

11. Choose the passive equivalent of ‘The team has marked the trail.’

A. The trail is being marked by the team.
B. The trail had been marked by the team.
C. The trail has been marked by the team.
D. The trail was marking the team.

Correct answer: C. The trail has been marked by the team.
Has been plus the past participle retains the present perfect.

12. Why does ‘The passengers slept’ have no ordinary passive rewrite?

A. Passengers is plural.
B. Slept has no direct object in this sentence.
C. Slept is in the past tense.
D. The sentence has no verb.

Correct answer: B. Slept has no direct object in this sentence.
There is no object to move to the passive subject position.

13. Turn ‘The field had been measured by the engineers’ into the active voice without changing its tense.

A. The engineers were measuring the field.
B. The engineers have measured the field.
C. The engineers measured the field.
D. The engineers had measured the field.

Correct answer: D. The engineers had measured the field.
The agent becomes the subject. Had measured retains the past perfect.

14. Which passive question keeps the tense and meaning of ‘When will the crew close the tunnel?’

A. When will the tunnel be closed by the crew?
B. When was the tunnel closed by the crew?
C. When will the crew be closed by the tunnel?
D. When is the tunnel being closed by the crew?

Correct answer: A. When will the tunnel be closed by the crew?
Keep will and add be closed after the new subject.

15. Which rewrite keeps the cracked panel first and leaves its unknown replacer unnamed?

A. The cracked panel has replaced a worker.
B. Someone has replaced the cracked panel.
C. The cracked panel has been replaced.
D. The cracked panel has been replaced by a technician.

Correct answer: C. The cracked panel has been replaced.
The agentless passive leads with the panel and introduces no claim about who did the work.