Year 6 English: Active and passive voice (Hard)

English · Grammar and punctuation
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- There are 10 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Write your answers on this paper. Use the space under a question to work it out.
- A grown-up can read a question aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

1. Which sentence is in the passive voice?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The builders will finish the roof next week.

○ **B** The builders will be finishing the roof next week.

○ **C** The roof will be finished next week.

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2. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The paddocks were _____ by heavy rain last term.

○ **A** flooded ○ **B** flood ○ **C** flooding

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3. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The lost wallet has been _____ by Ravi this term.

○ **A** find ○ **B** found ○ **C** finding

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4. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The beans will _____ picked by the gardeners tomorrow.

○ **A** been ○ **B** be ○ **C** is

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5. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The winners _____ announced each term.

○ **A** is ○ **B** are ○ **C** were

6. Change to the passive: 'The students have built the model bridge this year.'

The model _____ _____ _____ _____ by the _____ this year.

Words to use: been, bridge, build, built, has, have, students

7. Change to the passive: 'The judges have announced the winners this year.'

The _____ _____ _____ _____ by the _____ this year.

Words to use: announce, announced, been, has, have, judges, winners

8. A science report says: 'The water was heated to 80 degrees.' Why might the writer leave out who heated it?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The water was heated in the past, so the doer is not needed.

○ **B** The passive always leaves out the doer.

○ **C** The experiment matters more than the person who did it.

9. Which sentence is the passive version of 'The students were building a model of the Opera House.'?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** A model of the Opera House was being built by the students.

○ **B** A model of the Opera House was built by the students.

○ **C** A model of the Opera House were being built by the students.

○ **D** The students were being built by a model of the Opera House.

10. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The sheep had been _____ before the storm arrived.

○ **A** shore ○ **B** shorn ○ **C** shear

Answer key

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1. C — The roof will be finished next week.
The roof will be finished next week. In an active sentence the subject does the action. In a passive sentence the subject receives it.

2. A — flooded
The paddocks were flooded by heavy rain last term. A passive uses a form of 'be' and the past participle: was built, is written, has been taken.

3. B — found
The lost wallet has been found by Ravi this term. A passive uses a form of 'be' and the past participle: was built, is written, has been taken.

4. B — be
The beans will be picked by the gardeners tomorrow. The passive keeps the tense: was or were (past), is or are (present), will be (future), has or have been (present perfect).

5. B — are
The winners are announced each term. The form of 'be' agrees with the new subject, the receiver: was or is for one, were or are for more than one.

6. The model bridge has been built by the students this year.
The model bridge has been built by the students this year. In the passive, the receiver comes first and the doer comes after 'by'. The meaning stays the same.

7. The winners have been announced by the judges this year.
The winners have been announced by the judges this year. In the passive, the receiver comes first and the doer comes after 'by'. The meaning stays the same.

8. C — The experiment matters more than the person who did it.
The experiment matters more than the person who did it. A writer uses the passive to focus on what happened, or when the doer is unknown or not important.

9. A — A model of the Opera House was being built by the students.
A model of the Opera House was being built by the students. 'Were building' is past continuous, so the passive is 'was being built', and 'was' agrees with 'model'.

10. B — shorn
The sheep had been shorn before the storm arrived. The past participle of 'shear' is 'shorn'.