Year 6 English: Active and passive voice (Medium)

English · Grammar and punctuation · Level: Medium

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** A magpie will be stealing the shiny key next term.

○ **B** The shiny key will be stolen by a magpie next term.

○ **C** A magpie will steal the shiny key next term.

2. Which sentence is in the passive voice?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The wind tore the sail yesterday.

○ **B** The sail was torn yesterday.

○ **C** The wind was tearing the sail yesterday.

3. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The apples will be _____ by the possum next week.

○ **A** eaten ○ **B** ate ○ **C** eat

4. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The photos _____ taken by Priya at the festival each term.

○ **A** is ○ **B** are ○ **C** be

5. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

The passengers _____ carried by the crew across the harbour every week.

○ **A** is ○ **B** were ○ **C** are

6. Fix the mistake in this passive sentence: 'A new captain was chose by the class last week.' Write the corrected sentence, with its full stop.

7. Which passive sentence matches this one? 'The council repaired the bridge yesterday.'

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The bridge was repaired by the council yesterday.

○ **B** The bridge is repaired by the council every week.

○ **C** The bridge will be repaired by the council tomorrow.

8. Ben turned 'The wind tore the sail yesterday.' into 'The wind was torn by the sail yesterday.' Is that right?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** No. It should be: The sail is torn by the wind every week.

○ **B** No. It should be: The sail was torn by the wind yesterday.

○ **C** Yes. It means the same thing.

9. Choose the word that fits the gap.

Circle one answer.

These photographs _____ taken from a drone.

○ **A** were ○ **B** was ○ **C** been

10. Why might a writer choose the passive in 'The bridge was closed after the floods.'?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The writer wants to make the person who closed it sound important.

○ **B** The writer wants to show the action happened in the past.

○ **C** The writer wants to focus on the bridge, and who closed it is not important.

Answer key

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1. B — The shiny key will be stolen by a magpie next term.
The shiny key will be stolen by a magpie next term. In an active sentence the subject does the action. In a passive sentence the subject receives it.

2. B — The sail was torn yesterday.
The sail was torn yesterday. In an active sentence the subject does the action. In a passive sentence the subject receives it.

3. A — eaten
The apples will be eaten by the possum next week. A passive uses a form of 'be' and the past participle: was built, is written, has been taken.

4. B — are
The photos are taken by Priya at the festival each term. The form of 'be' agrees with the new subject, the receiver: is for one, are for more than one. Plain 'be' does not fit after 'The photos'.

5. C — are
The passengers are carried by the crew across the harbour every week. The form of 'be' agrees with the new subject, the receiver: was or is for one, were or are for more than one.

6. A new captain was chosen by the class last week.
A new captain was chosen by the class last week. A passive uses a form of 'be' and the past participle: was built, is written, has been taken.

7. A — The bridge was repaired by the council yesterday.
The bridge was repaired by the council yesterday. The passive keeps the tense: was or were (past), is or are (present), will be (future), has or have been (present perfect).

8. B — No. It should be: The sail was torn by the wind yesterday.
The sail was torn by the wind yesterday. In the passive, the receiver comes first and the doer comes after 'by'. The meaning stays the same.

9. A — were
These photographs were taken from a drone. The receiver 'photographs' is plural, so we use 'were'.

10. C — The writer wants to focus on the bridge, and who closed it is not important.
The passive puts the receiver first and can leave out the doer. Here the bridge matters most. The past tense could also be active, and the doer is not named at all.