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Mastering Double Passive Constructions

Hard | C2 | Proficiency | Complex sentence | Indirect speech | Infinitive | Participle | Past tense | Phrase | Sentence | Verb | Passive voice | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Simple tense

1. Help the archivist at the spy agency declassify some old files! Select ALL the sentences that correctly use a double passive construction to describe the secret operations.

Select all that apply.

A) The encrypted hard drive is scheduled to be wiped at midnight.
B) The encrypted hard drive was wanted to be wiped at midnight.
C) The undercover operatives are known to have been compromised.
D) The undercover operatives were hoped to be rescued by dawn.

2. Help the zoo director proofread the incident report. While "double passives" (a passive main verb followed by a passive infinitive) are sometimes necessary, they are grammatically incorrect with certain verbs like *attempt*, *begin*, or *hope*.

Select the grammatically correct sentence.

Select one.

A) The runaway llama was attempted to be caught by the zookeepers.
B) The runaway llama was hoped to be cornered by the head veterinarian.
C) The runaway llama was ordered to be tranquilized by the director.
D) The runaway llama was begun to be chased by the security team.

3. Complete the marine archaeologist's excited journal entry about a mythic discovery. Select the best option for each blank.

For centuries, the legendary sunken city _____ _____ by the sea in a fit of divine rage, at least until our recent sonar scans proved it was just a massive sinkhole.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) had considered
B) had been considered
C) was considering

Blank 2

A) to have swallowed
B) to be swallowed
C) to have been swallowed

4. Complete the museum curator's dramatic press release about the missing gemstone. Choose the phrase that correctly uses a double passive construction to show a current belief about a past action.

The cursed diamond _____ by a notorious syndicate of jewel thieves before the alarm even sounded.

Select one.

A) is believed to have been stolen
B) is believed to have stolen
C) believes to have been stolen
D) has believed to be stolen

5. Complete the eccentric UFOologist's blog post by choosing the correct passive form for each gap.

The glowing saucer _____ _____ hovering over the local dairy farm last night. Consequently, the cows _____ _____ any day now!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** is rumored
- **B)** has rumored
- **C)** rumors

Blank 2

- **A)** to have been spotted
- **B)** to have spotted
- **C)** to spot

Blank 3

- **A)** are expected
- **B)** are expecting
- **C)** have expected

Blank 4

- **A)** to be abducted
- **B)** to abduct
- **C)** to have abducted

6. Step into the shoes of a ruthless gossip columnist! Select ALL the sentences that correctly employ complex double passive constructions to spread rumors without getting sued.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The luxurious yacht is said to be being monitored by the paparazzi.
- **B)** The controversial photos are alleged to have been leaked by an insider.
- **C)** The exclusive interview was agreed to be broadcast live on Friday.
- **D)** The celebrity wedding was decided to be postponed until next year.

7. Choose the correct verb phrases to complete the whistleblower's dramatic email.

The incriminating financial records _____ _____ just hours before the auditors arrived. Now, the former CEO _____ _____ while trying to flee to a tropical island.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** were ordered
- **B)** had ordered
- **C)** ordered

Blank 2

- **A)** to be destroyed
- **B)** to destroy
- **C)** to have destroyed

Blank 3

- **A)** is reported
- **B)** has reported
- **C)** reports

Blank 4

- **A)** to have been arrested
- **B)** to have arrested
- **C)** to be arresting

8. Help the picky editor review the journalist's crime report! Select ALL the sentences that use grammatically acceptable passive constructions, avoiding awkward or incorrect "double passives."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The stolen painting is thought to have been destroyed by the thieves.
- **B)** The stolen painting was tried to be recovered by the detectives.
- **C)** The mastermind is expected to be sentenced tomorrow morning.
- **D)** The museum was begun to be renovated shortly after the heist.

9. Complete the royal historian's dramatic account of the rebellion. Choose the correct verb phrase to show that the knight was the recipient of both the command and the punishment.

To serve as a warning to other traitors, the captured knight _____ at dawn.

Select one.

A) commanded to be executed
B) was commanded to execute
C) had commanded to be executed
D) was commanded to be executed