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Basics. The Passive Voice: Present and Past

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Irregular verb | Participle | Past tense | Present tense | Subject | Verb | Passive voice | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Progressive tense | Simple tense

1. Complete the detective's dramatic report about the great museum heist by selecting the grammatically correct phrase.

When the security guard finally woke up from his nap, the priceless diamond ___ into the back of a getaway van!

Select one.

A) was loading
B) is being loaded
C) was being loaded
D) loaded

2. Review the food critic's draft article about a very strange, hipster restaurant called "The Rustic Spatula." Select ALL the sentences where the present or past passive voice is formed perfectly!

Select all that apply.

A) The soup was served in a repurposed hiking boot.
B) Our artisan bread is baked using only moonlight and good vibes.
C) While we waited, a single organic carrot was being massaged by the head chef.
D) The main course was ate before we even realized what it was.
E) For dessert, a handful of berries has been threw directly onto the table.

3. Read the dramatic email from the office manager and choose the correct phrase to complete it.

Please remain calm, everyone. I regret to inform you that our beloved espresso machine ___ by a rogue toaster at 3:00 AM last night.

Select one.

A) has been destroyed
B) was destroyed
C) destroyed
D) is destroyed

4. Help the disgruntled food critic finish their scathing review by dragging the correct verbs into the sentences.

During my visit yesterday, the roasted potatoes _____ beyond recognition. Usually, such dreadful meals _____ here with a surprising amount of confidence.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) were burned
B) was burned
C) are burned

Blank 2

A) are served
B) is served
C) were served

5. Help the museum curator write the information plaque for the new T-Rex exhibit by choosing the correct verb form.

Every night after the visitors leave, the fragile dinosaur bones ___ with tiny toothbrushes to keep them pristine.

Select one.

- **A)** are cleaned
- **B)** clean
- **C)** were cleaned
- **D)** are being cleaned

6. Complete the museum curator's dramatic speech about the cursed "Eye of the Kraken" diamond.

"Welcome, everyone! This magnificent diamond _____ in 1842 by a very unlucky pirate. Today, because of its mysterious curse, it _____ behind six inches of bulletproof glass for everyone's safety."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** discovered
- **B)** is discovered
- **C)** was discovered
- **D)** was discovering

Blank 2

- **A)** kept
- **B)** is kept
- **C)** was kept
- **D)** is keeping

7. Help the detective complete the official incident report by dragging the correct verbs into the blanks.

Last night, the famous painting _____ from the main gallery by a very clumsy thief. Because of this embarrassing event, the museum doors _____ at exactly 5 PM every day now to prevent further disasters.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was stolen
- **B)** were stolen
- **C)** is stolen

Blank 2

- **A)** are locked
- **B)** is locked
- **C)** were locked

8. Help Detective Paws complete his official incident report about the great museum heist! Select ALL the observations that use the past passive voice correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The priceless diamond was stolen just before midnight.
- **B)** The security cameras were being repaired during the robbery.
- **C)** The glass display case was smashed into a thousand pieces.
- **D)** The sleepy security guards was tied up in the broom closet.
- **E)** The main alarm system was disable by the clever thieves.

9. Help Julian finish his slightly panicked email to the boss regarding the chaotic office renovations.

Hi Sarah,

I just wanted to give you a quick update. When I arrived this morning, the front desk _____ by three aggressive raccoons. Right now, the ceiling _____ neon pink, which I assume wasn't in the original budget.

Best,
Julian

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was dismantling
- **B)** dismantled
- **C)** was being dismantled
- **D)** is being dismantled

Blank 2

- **A)** is painting
- **B)** painted
- **C)** was being painted
- **D)** is being painted

10. Read the frantic intern's text messages to the office manager during a massive coffee disaster. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use the present passive voice to describe the current chaos!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The carpets are being scrubbed as we speak!
- **B)** New coffee machines are ordered every time this happens.
- **C)** The spilled espresso has been contained in the breakroom.
- **D)** The emergency janitor is been called twice already.
- **E)** The important quarterly reports are being ruin by the latte puddle!

11. Complete the food critic's review of "The Flying Meatball," a highly unusual new dining establishment.

I cannot recommend this place. Last night, my soup _____ in a hollowed-out shoe. Furthermore, I learned from the waiter that all the dishes here _____ by a highly trained golden retriever. I will not be returning!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** served
- **B)** is served
- **C)** was served
- **D)** was serving

Blank 2

- **A)** are washing
- **B)** washed
- **C)** were washed
- **D)** are washed

12. Complete the sci-fi author's manuscript by dragging the correct passive voice phrases into the story.

The majestic mothership _____ by a highly advanced alien race centuries ago. Today, unsuspecting humans _____ from space while they struggle to parallel park their tiny vehicles.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was built
- **B)** were built
- **C)** is built

Blank 2

- **A)** are observed
- **B)** were observed
- **C)** is observed