

WORK AND MONEY: Review of passive constructions

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Although passive structures exist in Latin American Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese, they are not used as much as in English, which results in the general underuse of passives. In addition, Spanish and Portuguese often use reflexive constructions with the subject coming after the verb, and this leads to a variety of problems when students attempt to use the passive, e.g. *It is spent a lot of money.* ✗ and *They should be maintained better the roads.* ✗ Also, the prepositions *by* and *for* often have the same equivalent, which leads to the mistake *Harry Potter was written for a woman.* ✗ Irregular past participles also continue to cause problems at this level.

ANSWERS

EXERCISE 1

- When were you born?
- The job was finished on time.
- The warehouse is now used as apartments.
- Golf is played all over the world.
- Millions of cars are manufactured in the U.S.A.
- The thief was caught by the police.
- In the U.K., people are usually paid at the end of the month.

EXERCISE 2

Note: The students might produce sentences that are also correct with a slightly different word order.

Note: Question 6 could cause difficulties because the verb "to bear" is not used in the original sentence since it is too archaic and the structure is only normally used in the passive.

Note: Question 8 is also difficult since the phrase "very few people" needs to be replaced with an appropriate adverb.

- The bank has been robbed and \$1,000,000 has been stolen.
- My car was repaired last week.
- My house is being painted right now.
- I think the book was written in 1987.

- This chocolate is made in Switzerland.
- I was born in 1975.
- The missing painting was found yesterday in a store in Paris.
- Furniture is not often / usually made by hand anymore.

EXERCISE 3

Note: The students may think of other possible correct sentences. They probably will not know all the vocabulary. They should use the pictures to help them.

- The sacks of beans are weighed and loaded onto trucks.
- The beans are dried in the sun.
- The beans are then sorted into different sizes.
- The bags of coffee are loaded onto ships.
- The coffee beans are then roasted.
- The coffee beans are then ground.
- Coffee is then made and drunk in cafés.

PERSONALIZE IT!

- Ask your students to find out about something else that is produced in their country and write about the process of its production. This could be anything, e.g. food, clothing or electrical products.
- This could be turned into a display for the classroom wall with illustrations of the process.

WORK AND MONEY

EXERCISE 1

Find the mistakes in these sentences and correct them.

The *Harry Potter* books were writing by J.K. Rowling.

The *Harry Potter* books were written by J.K. Rowling...

- 1 When was you born?
.....
- 2 The job was finish on time.
.....
- 3 The warehouse is now uses as apartments.
.....
- 4 Golf is play all over the world.
.....
- 5 Millions of cars are be manufactured in the U.S.A.
.....
- 6 The thief was caught by the police.
.....
- 7 In the U.K., people are usually paying at the end of the month.
.....

EXERCISE 2

Rewrite these sentences using a passive structure.

A thief stole the money from her handbag.

The money was stolen from her handbag......

- 1 Somebody has robbed the bank and stolen \$1,000,000.
- 2 A mechanic repaired my car last week.
- 3 The painters are painting my house right now.
- 4 I think the author wrote the book in 1987.
- 5 They make this chocolate in Switzerland.
- 6 My mother gave birth to me in 1975.
- 7 They found the missing painting yesterday in a store in Paris.
- 8 Very few people make furniture by hand anymore.

EXERCISE 3

Write passive sentences about the pictures using the words given to describe the process of producing coffee.



coffee beans/pick/plantations
Coffee beans are picked on plantations......



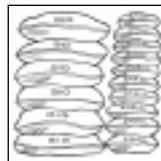
sacks of coffee/weigh/load/trucks

- 1
-
-



beans/dry/sun

- 2
-
-



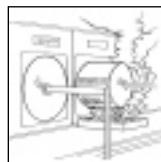
beans/sort/into sizes

- 3
-
-



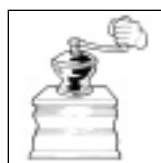
bags/load/onto/ships

- 4
-
-



beans/roast

- 5
-
-



beans/grind

- 6
-
-



coffee/make/drink/café

- 7
-
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