

The Passive

1. Look at these sentences. If the *by* phrase is unnecessary, put it in brackets.

- 0) *Millions of Euros have been stolen (by thieves) this morning.*
- 1) Two atomic bombs were dropped by American planes on Japan in 1945.
- 2) The Everest can be seen by people from that window.
- 3) The first books were printed by someone in the 15th century.
- 4) That planet was discovered by a famous astrophysicist last month.
- 5) The stolen painting has been recovered by the police this week.
- 6) This book may be read by people in many different languages.
- 7) Have your clothes been designed by Dior?
- 8) These diamonds couldn't be bought by the poor.
- 9) New roads are being built by them all over the country.

2. Make these active sentences passive, without using a *by* phrase.

- 0) *She took pictures of the disaster for a British newspaper.*
Pictures of the disaster were taken for a British newspaper.
- 1) They've repaired that car twice this year.
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- 2) I'm going to design a new type of chair.
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- 3) We've packed all the books.
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- 4) Someone sent my picture to the newspaper.
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- 5) Bill had paid the bill.
.....
- 6) They were building a new skyscraper.
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- 7) Someone might steal my wallet.
.....
- 8) Someone has to mend my glasses.
.....
- 9) They have offered us a better room.
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3. Make the following passive sentences active. If a subject is needed, use *they* or *someone*.

0) *Queen Elizabeth was crowned in 1953.*

They crowned Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

1) John F Kennedy was killed in Dallas.

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2) The dinosaurs were destroyed by a meteorite.

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3) They have just been brought dinner.

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4) The decision has already been taken.

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5) The repairs must be finished by tomorrow.

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6) She's been lent a fur coat.

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7) A faster computer has been invented in Japan.

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8) I was promised a new computer by my parents.

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ANSWERS:**1.**

- 1) Two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan by American planes in 1945.
- 2) Mount Everest can be seen (by people) from that window.
- 3) The first books were printed (by someone) in the 15th century.
- 4) That planet was discovered by a famous astrophysicist last month.
- 5) The stolen painting was recovered by the police this week.
- 6) This book may be read (by people) in many different languages.
- 7) The swimmers were protected from the sharks by some dolphins.
- 8) This dress was worn by Marilyn Monroe in the film Some Like It Hot.
- 9) New roads are being built (by them) all over the country.

2.

- 1) That car has been repaired twice so far this year.
- 2) A new type of chair should be designed.
- 3) All the books have been packed.
- 4) My picture was sent to the newspaper.
- 5) The bill had (already) been paid.
- 6) A new skyscraper was being built.
- 7) My wallet might be stolen.
- 8) My glasses have to be mended.
- 9) We have been offered a better room.

3.

- 1) Someone killed John F Kennedy in Dallas.
- 2) An asteroid destroyed the dinosaurs.
- 3) Someone has just brought them dinner.
- 4) They/Someone has already taken the decision. 5 They/Someone must finish the repairs by tomorrow.
- 5) Someone has lent her a fur coat.
- 6) They have/Someone has invented a faster computer in Japan.
- 7) My parents promised me a new computer.