

The Passive: Overview

EXERCISE 1 ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

Write active and passive sentences. Use *they* in active sentences when you don't know the subject.

1. (active) They print the publication monthly.

(passive) *The publication is printed monthly.*

2. (active) *The political editor discovered a serious mistake in the July edition.*

(passive) A serious mistake was discovered by the political editor in the July edition.

3. (active) They fired several employees as a result of the mistake.

(passive) _____

4. (active) They published an article about the Philippines a decade ago.

(passive) _____

5. (active) _____

(passive) The article was written by Al Baker.

6. (active) _____

(passive) New editors are frequently hired at the magazine.

7. (active) Two of the new editors interviewed Marla Jacobson.

(passive) _____

8. (active) _____

(passive) Marla was given an assignment on the Philippines.

9. (active) Marla researched the article thoroughly.

(passive) _____

10. (active) _____

(passive) Our readers were fascinated by the new article.

EXERCISE 2 PASSIVE STATEMENTS: SIMPLE PRESENT AND SIMPLE PAST

Complete the facts about the Philippines with the passive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The Philippines were named by the Spanish explorer Villalobos in 1543.
(name)
2. The islands _____ Filipinas to honor the Prince of Asturias, who later became King Phillip II of Spain.
(call)
3. The country _____ by its Spanish name any longer. Its official name is the Republic of the Philippines.
(not know)
4. The nation _____ of about 7,500 islands.
(make up)
5. Only eleven of them _____ major islands.
(consider)
6. An old legend says that the Philippines _____ when a giant threw a huge mass of rock into the sea.
(form)
7. In reality, the islands _____ by volcanoes.
(create)
8. Today, about 1,000 of the islands _____.
(populate)
9. Most of the small islands _____.
(not inhabit)
10. The two large islands of Luzon and Mindanao and the group of small islands between them _____ by the three stars on the Philippine flag.
(represent)

EXERCISE 3 ACTIVE OR PASSIVE

Here are some more facts about the Philippines. Complete the sentences with the active or passive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The Philippines are located in the tropics.
(locate)
2. Most people live near the water.
(live)
3. However, the mountains _____, too.
(inhabit)
4. Large rivers _____ on the main islands.
(find)
5. Floods often _____ roads and bridges.
(damage)
6. Windstorms _____ property damage and loss of life.
(cause)
7. Long ago, most of the land _____ by forests.
(cover)

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8. Today, forests _____ under 20% of the total land area.
(cover)
9. They _____ more than 3,000 kinds of trees.
(contain)
10. Wild hogs _____ on most of the islands.
(find)
11. Water buffalo _____ for cultivating the flooded rice fields.
(use)
12. Hundreds of species of birds _____ in the Philippines.
(exist)

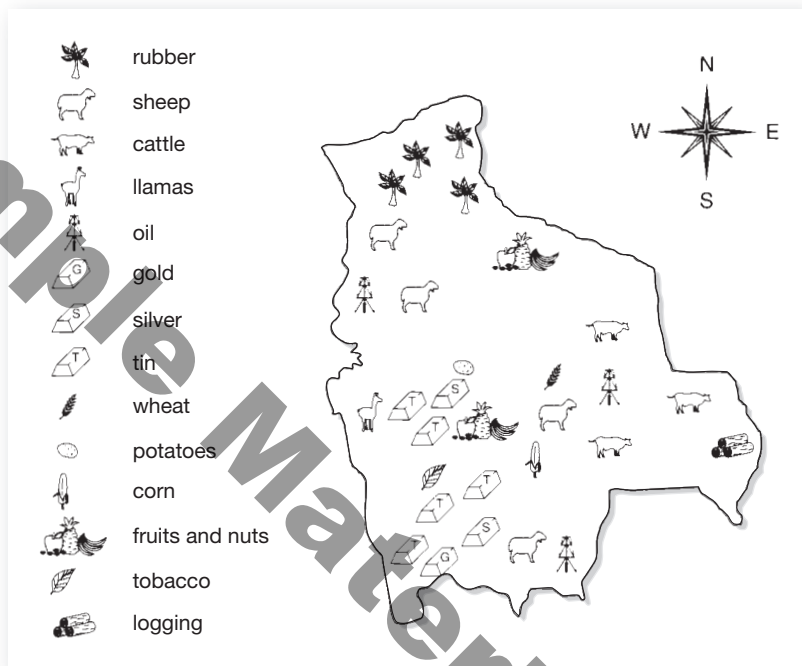
EXERCISE 4 THE PASSIVE: WITH OR WITHOUT AN AGENT

Complete the information about the Philippines. Use the passive form of the verbs in the first set of parentheses. Include the agent in the second set of parentheses only when necessary.

1. When the Spanish explorers came to the Philippines in the 1500s, the islands
_____ *were inhabited by three groups of people* _____.
(inhabit) (three groups of people)
2. The Aëtas _____ *are believed* _____ to be the earliest inhabitants.
(believe) (people)
3. Thousands of years later, the Aëtas _____
(follow) (groups from Indonesia)
4. Today, almost 200 languages and dialects _____
(speak) (the Filipinos)
5. Because they are similar, most dialects _____
(understand) (speakers of other dialects)
6. On December 31, 1937, Tagalog _____ to be the
(declare) (President Manuel Quezon)
official language of the Philippines.
7. Today, it _____ as a first or second language.
(speak) (most of the people)
8. Tagalog _____ in schools throughout the
(teach) (teachers)
Philippines.
9. Tagalog belongs to the Austronesian family of languages. These languages
_____ all across the Pacific, from Hawaii to Taiwan.
(speak) (people)
10. English _____ for commercial and business purposes.
(use) (people)

EXERCISE 5 QUESTIONS AND SHORT ANSWERS

Look at this map of Bolivia.



Write questions with the passive form of the words. Use the information on the map to answer the questions. Write short answers to yes/no questions and complete sentences for *wh-* questions.

1. tin / mine / in the north?

A: *Is tin mined in the north?*

B: *No, it isn't.*

2. What other minerals / mine in Bolivia?

A: *What other minerals are mined in Bolivia?*

B: *Gold and silver are mined in Bolivia.*

3. Where / fruits and nuts / grow?

A: _____

B: _____

4. Where / logging / do?

A: _____

B: _____

(continued on next page)

5. What animals / raise?

A: _____

B: _____

6. llamas / find / in the east?

A: _____

B: _____

7. potatoes / grow / there?

A: _____

B: _____

8. Where / rubber / produce?

A: _____

B: _____

9. Where / oil / find?

A: _____

B: _____

10. wheat / grow / in the north?

A: _____

B: _____

11. cattle / raise / in the east?

A: _____

B: _____

12. corn / grow / in the north?

A: _____

B: _____

13. Where / tobacco / grow?

A: _____

B: _____

EXERCISE 6 EDITING

Read the letter from the editor that appeared at the front of an architecture magazine. There are eight mistakes in the use of the passive. The first mistake is already corrected. Find and correct seven more.

Dear Readers:

Our mission is to bring you the world's great architecture, and in this issue, our spotlight is ~~focused~~ ^{focus} on India. The Taj Mahal, which is ~~locates~~ in northern India, is considered one of the eight wonders of the world. It was built by builders for the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. The emperor was felt great sadness when his wife Mumtaz Mahal died during the birth of their fourteenth child in 1631, and the Taj Mahal were created as a symbol of his eternal love. The incredible structure, which was finish in approximately 1653, contains examples of Persian, Islamic, and Indian architecture, and in 1983, it was became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The romance and beauty of Indian architecture don't stop with the Taj Mahal. Magnificent buildings found throughout India, and you'll see marvelous examples in the photos and articles in this issue of our magazine. I'm sure that, like me, you'll enjoy them all.

Sincerely,

Katarina Wilder

Katarina Wilder

Editor-in-Chief



EXERCISE 7 PERSONAL WRITING

Write two paragraphs about a place that you want to visit. In the first paragraph, give background information about the place. In the second paragraph, explain why you'd like to go there. Use some of the phrases from the box.

... is known for ...

All the photographs that ...

I plan ...

I really want to visit ... because ...

It is located ...

The ... was built ...

The place that ...

When I go there, I ...