

1. Change the following active sentences to passive:

Eg.: Someone robbed my bank last week.

My bank was robbed last week.

1. Edison invented the lightbulb for homes in 1879.

The light bulb was invented for homes in 1879.

2. People usually reject that idea.

That idea is usually rejected.

3. Journalists described the catastrophe in the newspapers.

The catastrophe was described in the newspapers.

4. She dusted the furniture in her apartment.

The furniture was dusted in her apartment.

5. Some people established this school a long time ago.

This school was established a long time ago.

6. Workers will improve the sedan's design next year.

The sedan's design will be improved next year.

7. The parents gave the spoiled son a new car.

The spoiled son was given a new car.

8. The mother changed the baby's diaper.

The baby's diaper was changed.

9. My friend asked me over to her house last night.

I was asked over to my friend's house last night.

2. Choose the reason that best explains why the sentence would normally be used in the passive:

Eg.: Someone robbed my bank last week.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

1. Edison invented the light bulb for homes in 1879.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

2. People usually reject that idea.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

3. Journalists described the catastrophe in the newspapers.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

4. She dusted the furniture in her apartment.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

5. Some people established this school a long time ago.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

6. Workers will improve the sedan's design next year.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

7. The parents gave the spoiled son a new car.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

8. The mother changed the baby's diaper.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

9. My friend asked me over to her house last night.

- a. the agent is not important or already understood.
- b. the agent is not known

3. Read the following passive sentences and change them to active using the impersonal subjects *we*, *you*, or *they*.

Eg.: In my country, chopsticks are used quite often.

We use chopsticks quite often.

1. A new law was established recently.

They established a new law recently.

2. Your files have to be saved before turning off the computer. (said by the teacher)

You have to save your files before turning off your computer.

3. This room is used a lot by students. (said by a student)

They use this room a lot. We use this room a lot.

4. A new bridge is being built over the river.

They are building a new bridge over the river.

5. This newspaper is published daily.

They publish this newspaper daily.

6. Hot dogs are usually eaten by Americans at baseball games. (said by an American)

We usually eat hot dogs at baseball games.

7. Changes were made to the subway schedule.

They made changes to the subway schedule.

8. Bears may be seen when climbing that mountain.

You may see bears when climbing that mountain.

9. This medicine should never be taken before a meal.

You should never take this medicine before a meal.