

2C Passive forms – It is said

Aims

- to practise grammar from the unit: the passive
- to practise word transformation skills

Activity type

a game in which students rephrase active sentences in the passive

Classroom dynamics

pairwork

Time taken

10 minutes

Preparation

You will need one copy of the activity sheet per pair, cut into cards.

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into A/B pairs and give each pair a set of cards placed face down in a pile on the desk. Tell students that they are going to play a sentence rephrasing game.
- 2 Student A takes a card and reads the sentence aloud. They then repeat the sentence, but rephrasing it in the passive. If you think it necessary, demonstrate with the first sentence.
- 3 If Student B accepts that the rephrased sentence is correct, Student A keeps the card. If the sentence is incorrect, Student B can propose a correct alternative. If the alternative is accepted by Student A, Student B keeps the card.
- 4 Student B now picks a card and reads it, repeating steps 2 and 3.
- 5 Students continue taking turns until all the sentence cards have been used, or as time allows. At the end, the student with the most cards in each pair is the winner.
- 6 Monitor students' production and then review and correct the activity as a whole class, comparing possible answers.

Adaptation and extension

- This activity is also suitable for individual fast finishers as a written transformation exercise.
- To challenge stronger groups, ask students to consider whether the agent is necessary to our understanding in each sentence, and in which sentences it would sound unnatural to use the agent.

Answer key

- 1 A revolutionary new mobile phone will be launched next week.
- 2 Are e-books still considered to be less popular than printed books?
- 3 Several cases of avian flu were reported in the area (by the local news).
- 4 A local cat was accused of stealing clothes (by residents).
- 5 A well-known celebrity was seen dining alone in a restaurant last night.
- 6 Mobile phones are still believed (by many people) to interfere with an aeroplane's equipment.
- 7 A number of new animal and plant species are found every year.
- 8 A new planet in the Milky Way was discovered (by a young amateur astronomer).
- 9 Einstein is often quoted as saying things he never actually said.
- 10 How long has it been known that the Earth is round?
- 11 When is the first bicycle believed to have been invented?
- 12 The news that water had been found on Mars was confirmed (by NASA).
- 13 Proof that the dinosaurs were wiped out by an asteroid has been published (by scientists).
- 14 The number 13 is considered to be unlucky (by some people).

Extension: Including the agent would sound unnatural in sentences 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11.

FORMULA C1
ADVANCED

Grammar

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1 They will launch a revolutionary new mobile phone next week.	8 A young amateur astronomer discovered a new planet in the Milky Way.
2 Do people still consider e-books to be less popular than printed books?	9 People often quote Einstein as saying things he never actually said.
3 The local news reported several cases of avian flu in the area.	10 How long have people known that the Earth is round?
4 Residents accused a local cat of stealing their clothes.	11 When do people believe that someone first invented the bicycle?
5 Many people saw a well-known celebrity dining alone in a restaurant last night.	12 NASA confirmed the news that they had found water on Mars.
6 Many people still believe that mobile phones interfere with an aeroplane's equipment.	13 Scientists have published proof that an asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs.
7 They find a number of new animal and plant species every year.	14 Some people consider the number 13 to be unlucky.

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