

ESL Worksheet: Passive (2)

Choose the correct answer.

Q1 - It has been drawn to my attention that some staff are leaving early on Friday. This shall stop

- The speaker probably uses the passive as a way of not giving the name of the person who told him
- The speaker uses the passive to sound clever and educated

Q2 - It is supposed to be really good

- The speaker isn't certain
- The speaker is certain

Q3 - The bridge is being widened

- The work is finished
- The work is unfinished

Q4 - The Prime Minister is rumoured to be about to resign

- The speaker wants to associate themselves with the rumour
- The speaker wants to put some distance between themselves and the rumour

Q5 - It might get done

- GET is an informal passive construction
- GET is a formal passive construction

Q6 - The pills should be taken after meals

- The passive is used because it is not known who is going to take the pills
- The passive is used as a way of making the instructions less like an order and more polite

Q7 - My wallet was stolen

- The passive is used to focus on what is really important to the speaker; their wallet
- The passive is used because the speaker does not wish to tell us who stole the wallet

Q8 - Jenny was born in North Yorkshire

- We use the passive because we do not know who bore her
- We use the passive to focus on Jenny rather than her Mother

Q9 - 'Catch 22' was written by Joseph Heller

- The speaker is talking principally about Joseph Heller
- The speaker is talking principally about 'Catch 22'

Q10 - It is said to be the best restaurant in the area

- This is the speaker's opinion
- This is not necessarily the speaker's opinion

Q11 - The government was elected last year

- We are more interested in the government than the voters
- We are as interested in the government as the voters

Q12 - The painting was sold for a fortune

- We are more interested in the buyer
- We are more interested in the picture

Q13 - I was born in 1969

- It is unnecessary to say who bore the speaker
- We don't know who bore the speaker

Q14 - The letters are posted at five o'clock every day

It is important who posts the letters

The time they are posted is important