

UNIT 6

THE PASSIVE

- 1 Here is a newspaper report of a young girl who went back in time to see how her home town looked seventy years ago.

Dehra Times

Purkul, 7 July, 09

It is reported that Kareena, a twelve year old girl living in Purkul, went back in time using a time machine.

Seventy years ago her home town was an ideal place to live in. Her home town had not been invaded by the marvels of technology. Industries had not been set up then, so the air was not polluted. She could see children playing in the garden. Some children were listening to the stories told by their grandmothers. Happiness and contentment prevailed everywhere.

In the newspaper report above, the focus is on the changes as observed by Kareena.

- Kareena's hometown had not been invaded by the marvels of technology.
- Industries had not been set up.
- The air was not polluted.
- Some children were listening to stories told to them by their grandmothers.

2. Fill in the table to identify the subject, verb and object in the sentences listed above. You may include the object/ agent where necessary.

| Subject | Verb | Object |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kareena's hometown | had not been invaded | (by) the marvels of technology. |
| Industries | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | was not polluted | _____ |
| Stories | _____ | _____ |

Did you know?

A passive construction does two things.

- (i) it brings the object to the position of the **subject**.
- (ii) it introduces the verb *be* and the past participle form of the verb. (*-ed/ -en*)

A passive construction is be used when

- (a) the agent is unknown
e.g. Gold jewellery worth one crore was found missing.
- (b) the agent is too obvious
e.g. The speeding car was stopped at the signal for violating the traffic rules.
- (c) the process is more important than the doer.
e.g. Vanilla flavour is added to the milkshake.
- (d) the speaker wants to hide the source for confidentiality.
e.g. I was informed that the staff accept gifts from the customers.

3. Simple Passive

Present Passive: "Where are they made?"

Match the words from columns A, B, C, and D to produce factually correct sentences. Write your answer in full sentences. (Remember to make your subject and verb "agree".)

e.g. Coffee is grown in Brazil.

| A | B | C | D |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------|
| Oranges | | produced in | Brazil. |
| Wine | | worn in | Switzerland. |
| Maruti cars | are | eaten in | Malaysia. |
| Coffee | | manufactured in | France. |
| The most expensive watches | is | grown in | India. |
| Uranium | | mined in | the Middle East. |
| Satay | | | South Africa. |
| Deshdashes | | | Morocco. |



4. Past Passive - "Where was it made?"

Look at what your partner is wearing. Imagine where the various items of clothing were (or might have been) made, and tell your partner. Use your imagination!

e.g. A: Was your shirt made in France?
B: No, actually it was made in Brazil.

5. Passives in Headlines and Notices

Headlines.

Newspaper headlines are short and crisp. They often use the passive as it may not be necessary to focus on the doer.

Sales tax increased

5.1 Expand the following headlines using passives as shown.

a) Oscar award for A.R. Rahman's *Jai Ho*

A.R. Rahman was awarded the Oscar for his song *Jai Ho* in the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*.

b) Son of business tycoon kidnapped

c) Explosive found near Regal Cinema

6. Convert these sentences into headlines

(i) The sealink between Bandra and Worli has been inaugurated.

(i)

(ii) Twelve non-stop superfast trains have been introduced in the recent railway budget.

(ii)

(iii) One more case of swine flu has been confirmed in Hyderabad.

(iii)

7. Notices

Read the following captions. Change them into active (voice) and explain their meaning.

e.g. All credit cards accepted.

We accept credit cards.

Meaning: The organization accepts credit cards from customers for all their transactions.

1. Domestic help required

2. All types of computer servicing undertaken.

3. Using cell phones is not allowed (University Campus)

4. Spoken English classes conducted.

5. All Recharge Coupons sold here.

8. The Passive in Tentative Statements

The passive is often used in tentative statements where the writer tries to be as neutral as possible.

| | | | | |
|------|-----|----------------|----|--------------|
| It | is | considered | to | be... |
| | | said | | |
| | | known | to | have been... |
| They | are | acknowledged | | |
| | | believed | | |
| | | regarded as... | | |

8.1 Look at the box below. Write tentative statements following the pattern in the table above.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| The Taj Mahal | invented by the Chinese | healthier than men |
| Qutab Minar | The cheetah | the fastest land animal |
| The Sahara desert | one of the oldest forms of writing | the longest river in the world |
| Hieroglyphics | Women | Gun powder and printing |
| the tallest ancient minaret | The Amazon | |
| the hottest region of the earth | | the most beautiful mausoleum in the world |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| "The Taj Mahal is | regarded as | the most beautiful |
| | considered to be | mausoleum in the world." |

PROCESS WRITING

9. Read these instructions from a computer operating manual.

How to start

1. Link up the monitor, keyboard and printer.
2. Plug in the main cable.
3. Switch on the monitor at the back.
4. When the light appears on the screen, place the Day Disk in Drive A.
5. Push in the disk until the button clicks out.
(It takes about 30 seconds for the computer to load the programme.)
6. Press the Drive button and the disk shoots out.

7. Replace the Day Disk with the Document Disk.
8. Press function key 7
9. Start work!

9.1 Convert these instructions into the past passive by filling in the blanks. The first sentence has been completed as an example.

Firstly the monitor keyboard and printer were linked up. Then the _____ was _____. The monitor _____ at the back. When the light appeared on the screen, _____ in Drive A. The disk _____ until _____. It took the computer 30 seconds to load the programme. The drive button _____ and the disk shot out. The _____ with the Document Disk. Finally, _____.

The word processor was then ready to use.

10. At a party, Gautam met a friend (Ravi) who talked about his experiences in staging a play.

Read the dialogue.

- Gautam : It's quite some time since we met. I guess it's because you've been busy as usual.
- Ravi : Yes, I've been directing a play - Targore's *Chandalika*. Did you hear about it?
- Gautam : Yes, I heard it was a great hit. In fact, I was planning to get in touch with you to ask for your help, to put on a play for our Annual Open Day. How did you go about staging your play?
- Ravi : Well First, we chose three possible plays, and divided ourselves into reading groups. Then we exchanged views and arrived at a decision.
- Gautam : What was your next step?

Ravi : Casting, of course. Once we'd got the script ready, we selected the cast.

Gautam : And then?

Ravi : We held auditions for the main parts and then made a preliminary selection. Eventually we were able to make a final choice and assign the roles.

Gautam : How did you plan your rehearsals?

Ravi : We met for a couple of hours every evening. As the play took shape, we held longer and more intensive rehearsals.

Gautam : Who else was involved in the production?

Ravi : The stage crew and the technicians. But they didn't come in until we were out of the initial phase.

(The conversation continues)

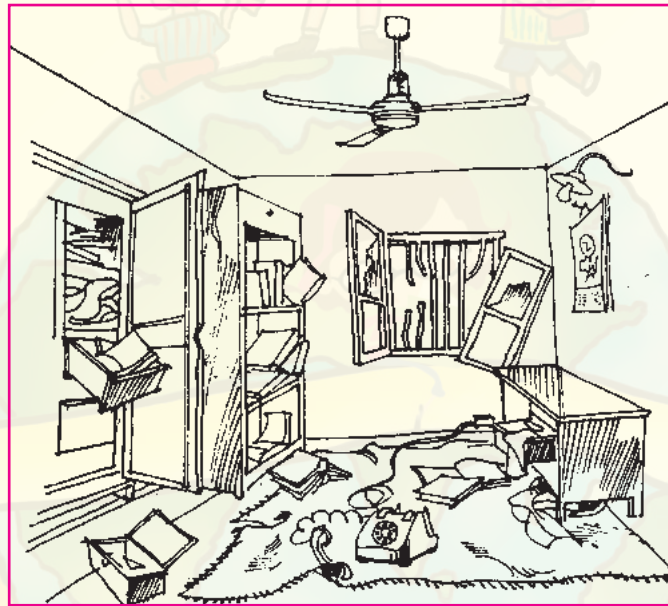
Gautam decides to make a written record of how Ravi produced a play in order to try it too.

Write this record, using the passive where appropriate. The first few words have been provided for you.

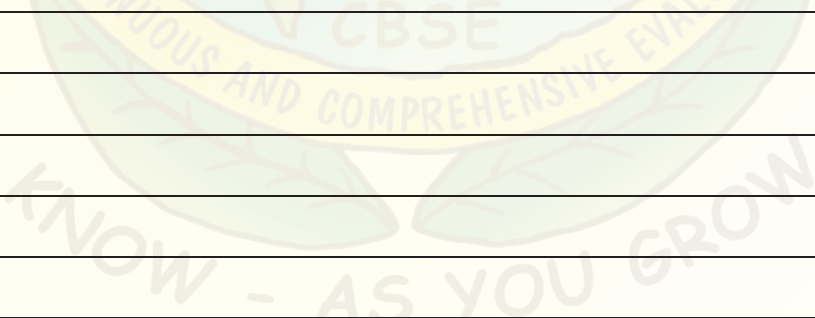
Three possible plays were selected and Ravi's friends were divided.....

11. Present Perfect Passive

Inspector Narayan has been called to investigate a burglary. When he arrives, there is total chaos in the room. He makes notes about what has been damaged. You are Inspector Narayan. Look at the picture and complete the description, using the Present Perfect Passive.



Several items in the room have been badly damaged. The carpet has been torn.



12. Maintaining a Point of view

Read the following passage. Underline the verbs in the active voice and put circles around verbs in the passive voice. The first two have been completed.

Dr Godbole arrived at the station at 6.30 pm and was met by Professor Salisbury of the Institute of Environment Studies. After being driven to the Conference Centre for a brief meeting, the Indian forestry expert was taken to his hotel. The following morning, he presented his paper entitled "Save the trees - Save the world" which was greeted with prolonged applause. After his brief visit, Dr. Godbole is reported to have said he was very pleased with its outcome.

From whose perspective or point of view is this description given? How does the use of the passive voice help maintain this?

13. Review of Passives

Look back on the exercises in this Unit. Discuss why the passive is used in each of these different circumstances.

Can you think of any other times when it is best to use the passive?

14. Imagine you are a famous person. Write a brief report (maximum 80 words) of a day in your life. Use the passive voice where you think it is appropriate. An example of how you might start is given below.

I woke up at 7am and was given tea. It was a lovely cool morning so I decided to walk to the film studio. Normally I am driven....

15. Future Passive

Promises Galore!

Your class will be divided into two groups. One member of each group is contesting an election representing his/her party. The two parties are United Students' Front and United Youth Power. The group writes the election manifesto stating changes that will be brought about in schools and colleges if their candidate is selected.

Begin like this :

If I am elected, the following changes will be implemented with immediate effect.

1. *Participation in any one of the sports activities will be made compulsory.*

The candidates will read out their manifesto to the whole class.

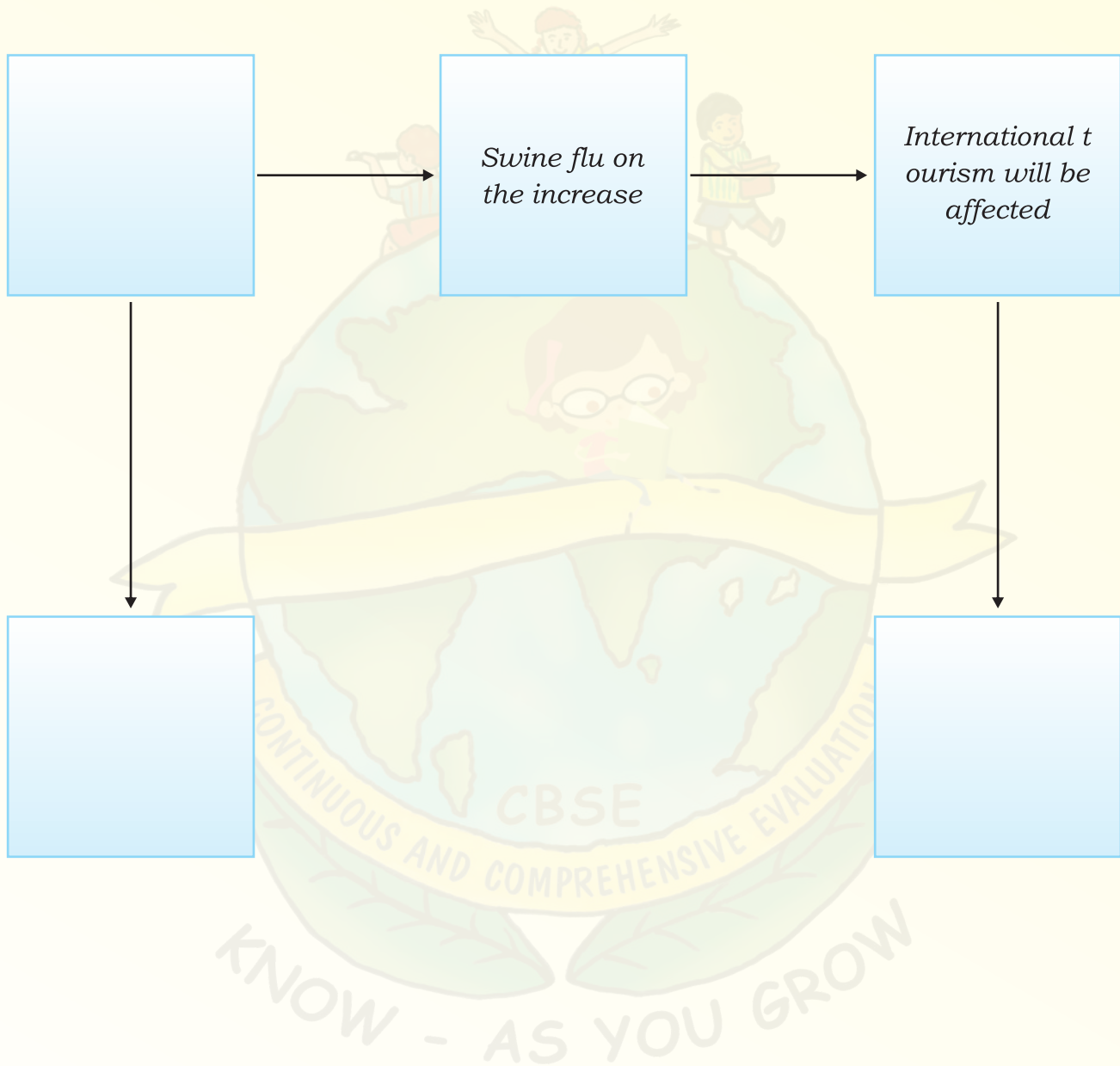
16. Prevention is better than cure.

Swine flu has been declared (as) a pandemic.

In groups of four discuss the following.

- a) What has been done by the authorities to cope with the problem?
- b) What are the consequences of such a major world-wide infection?

Write out the answer to the questions as a flowchart using the passive form of the verb.



INTEGRATIVE GRAMMAR PRACTICE 5

- 1. Look at the notes below. Then use the information to complete the paragraph by choosing a suitable word or phrase in each space.**

Bishnois - always - nature worshippers - 1730 A.D. - Maharaja Abhay Singh's men - fell - khejri trees - Amrita Devi - hug a tree - protested - insisted - to cut her head first - men obliged - Amrita - a legend.

Bishnois have (a) _____. In 1730 A.D. Maharaja Abhay Singh's (b) _____ fell Khajri trees. Amrita Devi, a true Bishnoi, (c) _____ and expressed (d) _____. She insisted that if they wanted to cut the tree (e) _____ first. The unrelenting men of the Maharaja obliged her and the (f) _____.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) (i) always been regarded as nature worshippers</p> <p>(iii) always knew nature worshippers</p> | <p>(ii) always been called as nature worshippers</p> <p>(iv) always done nature worshippers</p> |
| <p>(b) (i) men coming to</p> <p>(iii) men began to</p> | <p>(ii) men started</p> <p>(iv) men came to</p> |
| <p>(c) (i) hug a tree</p> <p>(iii) hugged a tree</p> | <p>(ii) hugging a tree</p> <p>(iv) hugs a tree</p> |
| <p>(d) (i) his protest</p> <p>(iii) their protest</p> | <p>(ii) her protest</p> <p>(iv) protesting</p> |
| <p>(e) (i) they may cut her head first</p> <p>(iii) they can cut her head first</p> | <p>(ii) they would have to cut her head first</p> <p>(iv) they should cut her head first</p> |
| <p>(f) (i) woman became a legend</p> <p>(iii) women became a legend</p> | <p>(ii) woman becomes a legend</p> <p>(iv) woman read a legend</p> |

- 2. Rearrange the jumbled words to form meaningful sentences.**

(a) at developing / there have been / a modern / many attempts / snowboard

(a) _____

- (b) was developed / a child's toy / in 1965 / the 'Snurfer' / as
 (b) _____
 (c) and a rope / at the / two skiis / were bound / was placed / front end / together
 (c) _____
 (d) declared / snowboarding / in 1994 / was / event / an Olympic
 (d) _____
 (e) across the globe / is a / this recognition / huge victory / snowboarders / to the
 (e) _____

3. Choose the right word from the options given below and fill in the blanks.

- a) The weekly forecast says that I _____ an old friend this week.
 b) I have to catch the 5.00 am train tomorrow. So, I _____ go to bed late tonight.
 c) The casualties _____ to a nearby hospital.
 d) The majority of the news _____ about violence.
 (a) (i) will meet (ii) meet (iii) am meeting (iv) ought to meet
 (b) (i) have to (ii) needn't (iii) may (iv) musn't
 (c) (i) was taken (ii) were taken (iii) taken (iv) took
 (d) (i) are (ii) is (iii) has (iv) have

4. Each sentence has four words underlined. Select the one underlined word that is incorrect and write it in the box as shown.

1. Machu Picchu is the pre-Columbian Inca site located 2430 mts above sea-level. The
 2. It was situated on a mountain ridge in Peru.
 3. Machu Picchu was declared an UNESCO world heritage site in 1983.
 4. Before it was not plundered by the Spanish it is an important cultural site.
 5. This Peruvian historic sanctuary is considered a sacred place.