ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Passives for Flow Quiz: Active or Passive in Writing

English Grammar Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/passives-for-flow-quiz-active-or-passive-in-writing/

1	**C**	2	**D**	3	**C**	4	**B**	5	**B**	6	**B**	7	**A**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**A**
11	**A**	12	**D**	13	**D**	14	**B**	15	**D**										

Explanations

1. Which second sentence keeps the topic and flows best? “The castle is over 800 years old. ___”
✔ **C) It is now owned by a local family.**
The passive keeps the castle (it) as the subject, so the paragraph stays on the same topic.

2. Which sentence avoids I / we in the impersonal style of a formal report?
✔ **D) The water was heated to 100°C.**
The passive avoids I / we and keeps the focus on the process; by us adds nothing.

3. Which sentence puts the new, interesting information at the end?
✔ **C) The competition was won by a young nurse from Leeds.**
English usually moves from known to new information; the passive puts the long, new part last.

4. Which sentence should keep the by + agent?
✔ **B) This bridge was designed by a famous Italian engineer.**
Keep by when the doer is new or important. A thief, a postman and the police are obvious.

5. Choose the better version: “The window was broken by someone.”
✔ **B) The window was broken.**
A weak agent like someone adds nothing, so leave it out.

6. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **B) It is said that the factory will close.**
The fixed pattern is It is said that … (or People say that …).

7. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **A) Parking is not allowed here.**
Only a verb with an object can be passive. Use a noun subject: Parking is not allowed here.

8. A company has made a serious error and wants to sound honest and responsible. Which sentence is best?
✔ **C) We made a serious mistake, and we apologise.**
When the doer matters, the active is direct and responsible. The passive versions hide who did it.

9. Complete the process description: First, the grapes ___ and crushed.
✔ **A) are picked**
Processes are described with the present simple passive: the grapes are picked and crushed.

10. “Our new app is very popular. ___ by students and teachers.” Choose the best continuation.
✔ **A) It is mainly used**
It is mainly used keeps the app as the topic and puts the new information (students and teachers) last.

11. Why is the passive a good choice in “The village hall was built in 1920 and has been used for weddings ever since”?
✔ **A) It keeps the same subject (the hall) through the sentence.**
The hall stays the subject of both verbs, so the information flows smoothly.

12. Which sentence has the same meaning and keeps the topic first? “Millions of people watched the final.” (topic: the final)
✔ **D) The final was watched by millions of people.**
To make the final the subject, use the passive: was watched by millions of people.

13. Which sentence uses the passive with no good reason?
✔ **D) A lovely time was had by us at the beach.**
A lovely time was had by us is heavy and unnatural. We had a lovely time is better.

14. Complete the paragraph: “House prices rose by 10% last year. ___ was mostly caused by low interest rates.”
✔ **B) This increase**
This / these + a summary noun links back to known information at the start of the sentence.

15. My wallet ___ on the bus yesterday. I have no idea who took it.
✔ **D) was stolen**
The wallet is the topic and the thief is unknown, so use the passive with no agent: My wallet was stolen.