

Revising the passive voice

It has been a long time!

We've enjoyed our holidays, you have enjoyed your English oral exam, we need to get back to the passive voice a little!

Let's see if you remember everything...

I) Past participles:

To build the passive voice, one needs the verb "to be" in the necessary tense and the past participle of the verb...

Ex.:

The computer was broken yesterday.

The car was washed just before the rain.

To build the past participle you just need to add -ed to regular verbs, but you also need to know your list of irregular verbs...

So let's see if you remember them ;)

Verbs Infinitive	Past Simple	Past Participle	Meaning
			Supporter
	Overcame		
		Spent	
		Laid	
Strike			
Light			
		Burnt	
			Creuser
	Threw		
Win			
			Etaler
Choose			
			Garder
	Shook		

II) Exercise : Complete the following sentences using verbs in the active or the passive voice depending on the meaning.

The Fellowship of the Ring _____(be) the first book of J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings trilogy, which _____(set) in a fictive world, Middle Earth.

It _____(tell) the story of Frodo, a hobbit, and a magic ring.

As the story _____(begin) , Frodo _____(give) a magic ring. The wizard Gandalf then _____(tell) him of the Rings of Power and of Sauron, the Dark Lord, who _____(make) the Master Ring to rule all other Rings.

Gandalf _____(advise) Frodo to leave home and keep the ring out of Sauron's hands who

already_____ (send) his Black Riders in search for it. Frodo's ring _____(give) Sauron the power to enslave Middle Earth.

Frodo _____(leave) the shire with three travelling companions: Sam, Merry and Pippin. First they _____ (know/not) that the Dark Riders _____ (pick up) their trail already. But soon the four friends _____ (find out) about that.

They _____(have) a few encounters with the Dark Riders which Frodo and his friends _____ (can) only just escape. In one attack by the Dark Riders, however, Frodo _____(wound) badly. Still, his friends _____(manage) to escape with him. Travelling on, they _____ (reach) the country of the elves. There Frodo _____(heal) by Elrond, an half-elven.

A council then _____(decide) that the ring _____(must / destroy) and _____ (send) nine individuals, the fellowship of the ring, to the Cracks of Doom to fulfil this task. The group _____(travel) through the lands of Hollom and finally _____(come) to the mines of Moria. There they _____ (have to) fight against orcs and a demon of flames called Balrog. Fighting Balrog on the bridge of Khazad-Dum, Gandalf _____ (save) his friends. Gandalf himself, however, _____(drag) into the depths by the demon. The others _____(manage) to escape.

When Boromir, one of the fellowship, _____ (try) to steal the ring, Frodo _____(realise) that he _____(have to) continue on his own. His dear friend Sam, however, _____(want/not) to let him go alone. So he _____(accompany) him and eventually the two of them _____ (reach) the evil land of Mordor.

III) Read the following text and use the correct form of the verbs in brackets. You will have to choose between the active or the passive voice.

Even in the age of the Internet, popular myths are widespread. It(widely / believe) for example, that the explorer Christopher Columbus had trouble persuading his sailors that they would not sail off the edge of a flat earth. Most people don't realize that in fact few people(think) the earth was flat during this time. We also(assume) that Marco Polo brought back pasta from China although it..... (can / easily / show) that the Italians learned about pasta from the Arabs 600 years earlier.

Myths relating to science and nature are also common. It..... (often / say) that bats are blind, and we all(know) that bulls become angry when they see the colour red. We ...7.....(believe) that if an earthworm is cut in half, two new worms are the result and it(commonly / accept) that goldfish have short memories - so short that they don't get bored swimming around their bowls. It...9..... (frequently / claim) that chewing gums stay in the body for years; and how often have you heard people(say) that if you dropped a coin from the Empire State Building, it could kill a person? How many people..... (think) that the Great Wall of China is visible from the Moon?

In fact, none of these is true.

IV) Written Expression:

Choose an invention that fascinates you/ that you find outstanding, noteworthy and write a short text presenting it to the class. Use the passive voice and also different tenses to best identify its characteristics.