

EXAM

Je moet 3 passieve zinnen kunnen herkennen in een tekst, met één van die drie passieve zinnen moet je verder gaan en moet je kunnen uitleggen WAAROM die passief is. Je moet voorts nog kunnen uitleggen hoe je het passief hebt herkend.

“In a recent survey in the city of Sao Paulo, over six hundred children were found to be sleeping on the streets on one night.”

--> Passief? Yes! There is now active subject that does something, the children aren't FINDING SOMETHING (= active) but they WERE FOUND (... by someone)."

--> Waarom passief? To change the focus of the sentence from the person who does the action to the children that are being found. It doesn't matter that someone found them, what matters for the text is that they have been found.

ACTIVE: We are going to watch a movie tonight.

PASSIVE: A movie is going to be watched by us tonight.

==> How do you see passive? There is no subject that does something, you see clearly in the active that WE are going to do something. In the passive there is no stress on WE doing something.

==> Why is it passive? To change the focus from the fact that WE are going to watch a movie from the fact that a movie is going to be watched IN OUR HOUSE tonight.

THEORY

Passive = be + past participle of the main verb.

by + past participle of the main verb (if we want to say who/what caused the action)

Why do we use the passive?

A) CHANGE FOCUS SENTENCE

(1) action/issue/event ... more important than the agent (that did/caused it).

--> The terrorist attack in New-Zealand was found to be an extreme-right hate-action.

➔ It doesn't matter who did the terrorist attack, only thing that matters in this sentence is that it was a hate-attack from extreme right.

(2) When the agent is unknown, or it is obvious from the context who the agent is.

--> The terrorist attack in Utrecht could be found to be related to ISIS.

➔ We still at the moment don't know who did the terrorist attack there.

(3) When new or more interesting information is presented at the end of a sentence, usually after by.

--> Some people say that our lives are ruined by social media

B) STYLISTIC REASONS

(4) To present information in an impersonal way, to avoid blaming or identifying someone directly.

--> Temporary shelter places are being built for muslims that want to flee from New-Zealand.

(5) When setting out rules, procedures ... to avoid personal commands.

--> In case of fire: ensure that electricity supply is disconnected before evacuating.

(6) When avoiding need of a long phrase at the beginning of a sentence.

--> The HAL was closed by the new, modern principal of KA+.

The passive – oral exam