

6B

The passive

1 Choose the correct options to complete the text.

In 1918, just as the First World War was ending, there was a major outbreak of flu. Today, this virus ¹ ___ as 'Spanish Flu'. Five hundred million people across the world ² ___ with the virus between 1918 and 1920. Many soldiers, who ³ ___ for their battle injuries in hospitals, caught the disease. Historians believe that, by the end of 1920, 100 million people ⁴ ___ by the virus.

Flu can still be a dangerous illness and research ⁵ ___ at the moment to try to develop stronger and more effective vaccinations against it. New treatments ⁶ ___ and in the future, scientists hope that a cure ⁷ ___.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 A is known | B is knowing |
| 2 A are infected | B were infected |
| 3 A being treated | B were being treated |
| 4 A had been killed | B had killed |
| 5 A is being done | B is doing |
| 6 A be tested | B have been tested |
| 7 A will be discovered | B will discover |

2 Rewrite the sentences in the passive.

- If you do more exercise, it will improve your health.
Your health _____ if you do more exercise.
- We grow tomatoes, lettuce and cucumber in the garden.
Tomatoes, lettuce and cucumber _____ in the garden.
- Scientists are developing new cures for illnesses every day.
Every day, new cures for illnesses _____.
- The plague was killing hundreds of people every day.
Hundreds of people every day _____ by the plague.
- They have banned unhealthy snacks in the canteen.
Unhealthy snacks in the canteen _____.
- By the beginning of the 21st century, the new medicine had saved many lives.
By the beginning of the 21st century, many lives _____ by the new medicine.
- Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928.
Penicillin _____ by Alexander Fleming in 1928.

3 SPEAKING Work in pairs.

- Prepare a news report on a recent discovery about health or medicine. Try to use at least four passive forms in your report.
- Present your report to another pair of students.
- Listen to another pair's news report. Every time you hear a passive form, stand up.

News has just been received about an exciting new medicine for colds. The medicine has been developed by three British scientists.

At the moment it is being tested in several hospitals, but scientists hope that the medicine will be given to children and the elderly around the world.

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Aims: To review and practise the passive tense.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Before you give out the handout, ask students if they know what, between 1918 and 1920, killed more people than the First World War. Accept all suggestions and then give each student a handout and ask them to check their ideas in the text.
- Ask some general comprehension questions about the text first: *How many people caught the virus between 1918 and 1920?* (500 million) *How many people probably died due to the virus?* (100 million) Students then choose the correct options to complete the text.
- Check answers with the class.

KEY

1 A 2 B 3 B 4 A 5 A 6 B 7 A

Exercise 2

- Students rewrite the sentences using the passive tense. Go through the first sentence with the class. Students then continue to work individually.
- Ask different students to read out their completed sentences and tell the rest of the class to listen and raise their hands if they think they hear a mistake.

KEY

- 1 will be improved
- 2 are grown
- 3 are being developed
- 4 were being killed
- 5 have been banned
- 6 had been saved
- 7 was discovered

Exercise 3

- Students work in pairs to prepare and then present a news broadcast. They can make up the facts, but it has to be on a science / medicine-related subject and they have to use different passive structures. Challenge other pairs of students, or the whole class, to listen to the broadcast and stand up whenever they hear a passive form.
- If students enjoy this activity, they could make videos of their news broadcasts and add background music.