

Active and passive voice in use

■ Look at sentences Q1–Q10 and decide which of the uses of the passive voice below they represent.

1. When it is obvious who did the action
2. When it is not necessary to know who did the action
3. When we don't know who did the action
4. When we don't want to say who did the action

Q1. Marie-Antoinette was executed in 1793.

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Q2. The Empire State Building was completed in 1931.

.....

Q3. My coat has been taken.

.....

Q4. My brother was arrested in London last weekend.

.....

Q5. When I got to the street, the green car had been moved.

.....

Q6. You were seen entering the building within authorisation.

.....

Q7. The pyramids of Egypt were built between 2580 and 2560.

.....

Q8. We have been told that you were a liar.

.....

Q9. The last biscuit had been eaten when I went into the kitchen.

.....

Q10. The Sutton Hoo helmet was made around 625.

.....

ANSWERS

- A1.** Marie-Antoinette was executed in 1793.
1. When it is obvious who did the action
- A2.** The Empire State Building was completed in 1931.
2. When it is not necessary to know who did the action
- A3.** My coat has been taken.
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- A4.** My brother was arrested in London last weekend.
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- A7.** The pyramids of Egypt were built between 2580 and 2560.
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- A8.** We have been told that you were a liar.
4. When we don't want to say who did the action
- A9.** The last biscuit had been eaten when I went into the kitchen.
3. When we don't know who did the action
- A10.** The Sutton Hoo helmet was made around 625.
2. When it is not necessary to know who did the action