

6A Which is the best way?

Use and non-use of the passive



Student A

1 Say sentences 1–5. Student B will respond with an appropriate sentence.

- 1 Children don't learn practical skills in school these days.
- 2 Taking care of your eyes is very important.
- 3 It's important for children to stay in school until they're adults.
- 4 On the whole, I don't find English difficult to learn.
- 5 Recent research has produced surprising results about how we bring up children.

2 Listen to Student B's sentences and respond with sentences a–e below. Use the verbs in brackets in an appropriate passive form.

- a When I have some important work to do, I find it really difficult to (get / start).
- b I think English should (teach) from an earlier age at school.
- c I think they should (test) less and taught more.
- d I think they were some of the best stories (ever / write).
- e When I write an email in English, I like to (get / it / check) by someone else before I send it.

3 Discuss the sentences you agree with. Change the ones you disagree with.



Student B

1 Listen to Student A's sentences and respond with sentences a–e below. Use the verbs in brackets in an appropriate passive form.

- a In my country, children (not / allow) to leave school until they're 18.
- b Too much praise (believe) to actually harm children's confidence levels.
- c However, I sometimes (get / a bit / lose) with English grammar.
- d That's why we should (get / our eyes / test) twice a year.
- e When I was at school, we (teach) how to cook.

2 Say sentences 1–5. Student A will respond with an appropriate sentence.

- 1 Not many people speak English well in my country.
- 2 I have terrible self-discipline.
- 3 When I write an email in my language, I just send it without checking for mistakes.
- 4 I really enjoyed studying Greek mythology at school.
- 5 Children have too many exams these days.

3 Discuss the sentences you agree with. Change the ones you disagree with.

Instructions and Answer Key

You will need: one copy of the Student A worksheet and one copy of the Student B worksheet per pair

- Divide students into pairs, and give one copy of the worksheet to each pair. Make sure students don't show their worksheet to their partner.
- Student A reads out sentence 1. Student B listens and responds with the most appropriate follow-up sentence, putting the verb in brackets in the correct passive form. Students then swap roles to do exercise 2.
- With weaker classes, give students time to think about the correct passive form before they begin the activity. Monitor and help where necessary, and when they have finished, Student B reads out his/her sentences for student A to respond.
- When students have finished, check answers with the class.
- Students discuss if they agree or disagree with each statement and why. If they disagree, encourage students to change the sentences so they are true for them.

ANSWER KEY

Student A

- 1 e, were taught
- 2 d, get our eyes tested
- 3 a, aren't allowed
- 4 c, get a bit lost
- 5 b, is believed

Student B

- 1 b, be taught
- 2 a, get started
- 3 e, get it checked
- 4 d, (which were) ever (to be) written
- 5 c, be tested