

LESSON 143

802 Uses of the passive voice

Although the passive voice is less common than the active voice, it is very useful in certain situations. Four common situations in which we often use the passive voice are:

- 1) when we don't know who does the action: for example, "My car has been stolen!";
- 2) when we don't want to say who does the action: for example, "You were seen entering the office without permission";
- 3) when it is not important who does the action: for example, "The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889";
- 4) when it is obvious who does the action: for example, "He was arrested for stealing".

Tell me four common situations in which we often use the passive voice, please.

Four common situations ... are

- 1) when we don't know ...;
- 2) when we don't want to say ...;
- 3) when it is not important ...;
- 4) when it is obvious ...

Give me an example of each, please.

- 1) All the wine has been drunk.
- 2) A complaint has been made against you.
- 3) The doors were designed to close by themselves.
- 4) I was given some extra homework.

resist

resistance

Is there anything that you cannot resist eating even though you know it's not very good for the health?

- Yes, there's something ...
~ No, there isn't anything ...

803 Would you show any resistance if a policeman tried to arrest you for a crime that you did not commit? Yes, I'd show some ... ~ No, I wouldn't show any ...

substantial

bacon

toast

fry – fried – fried

Do you prefer to eat a substantial breakfast like bacon and eggs in the morning, or do you prefer something light such as cereal and toast?

I prefer to eat ...

Is it good for the health to eat fried food every day?

No, it isn't ...

approximate

What's the approximate population of the world?

The approximate population ... is ...

course

starter

main course

dessert

If you're in a restaurant but you only want a two-course meal, which do you normally have: a starter and main course, or a main course and dessert?

If I'm in ..., I normally have ...

dine

What's the name of the room in which one dines?

The name of the room ... is the dining room

804 **marmalade**

jam

pear

plum

The difference between marmalade and jam is that marmalade is generally made from oranges, whereas jam is made from other fruits, such as pears, apples, plums etc.

What's the difference between marmalade and jam?

The difference ... is that marmalade ... oranges, whereas jam ... other fruits ...

the country

rejoice

victory

When we say "the country", we often mean "the countryside". However, another meaning of "the country" is "the people of a nation". For example, we can say "The country rejoiced at the news of the victory", or "The country voted to change the government".

What's another meaning of "the country" besides "the countryside"?

Another meaning ...
is "the people of a nation"

Give me an example, please.

Most of the country
was in favour of his election

shave

razor

heal

What do we shave with?

We shave with a razor

About how long does it take for a shaving cut to heal?

It takes about
... for a shaving cut to heal

805 **live (v)** /lɪv/

live (adj) /laɪv/

musician

What's the difference between live (v) and live (adj)?

The difference ...
is that "live" is a verb, whereas ...

Do you think it's all right to perform experiments on live animals?

Yes, I think it's all right to ...
~ No, I don't think it's all right to ...

Have you ever been to see a famous musician or band live and felt really let down by the performance?

Yes, I've been
to see ... ~ No, I've never been to see ...

mild

remark

look

stormy

What kind of remark would someone have to make to bring a mild look of surprise to your face?

The kind of remark
someone would ... would be that
they have the same surname as me, or that
they used to live in the same town as me etc.

What do we mean by mild weather?

By mild weather,
we mean weather that
is not stormy, or very hot, or very cold.
In other words, we mean weather that is not extreme.

Why is soap designed for washing the face milder than soap designed for washing the rest of the body?

Soap designed for washing
the face is ... because the skin on the face
is very sensitive and can easily become irritated and itchy

proof

In your country, do you have to carry documents as proof of your identity?

Yes, in my country, we have to ...
~ No, in my country, we don't have to ...

806 saying

What does this saying mean: "Home is where the heart is"?

The saying "Home is ..."
means that your real home is not always
the house or flat where you live; it is the place where
you feel most comfortable or where you feel that you belong

trap

What can we put in a trap to catch a mouse?

We can put
many different types of food, such as
chocolate or cheese, in a trap to catch a mouse

pot

cooking pot

flowerpot

coffee pot

teapot

Name me some different kinds of pots, please.

Some different kinds
of pots are cooking pots,
flowerpots, coffee pots, teapots etc.

in relation to

relationship

relative

overweight

Do you think most people in your country are overweight or underweight in relation to their height?

I think most people ... in relation to their height

Does your country have a good relationship with most of its neighbouring countries?

Yes, my country has ...
~ No, my country doesn't have ...

807 What do we mean when we say that everything is relative?

When we say that everything is relative, we mean that what we think of something often depends on what we are comparing it to

Give me an example, please.

A man is only considered tall if the people around him are shorter than he is. If he were surrounded by people who were taller than him, he would be considered short. It's all relative.

at sea

by sea

How long are you at sea for when you travel by sea from Europe to America?

How long you are at sea for when you travel by ... depends on the ship, but I reckon about ...

Idiom 44

touch wood = what people say when they touch something that is made of wood in the hope of preventing bad luck

e.g. We've been very lucky and everything's gone very well so far; touch wood.

What do people do and say when they hope to prevent bad luck?

When people ..., they touch something that is made of wood and say "Touch wood!"

Give me an example, please.

I've been driving now for ten years without an accident; touch wood!



She picked up her wedding ring/ from the floor/ and put it back on her finger./ A bird has a pair of wings/ and a tail./ The value of goods/ depends a great deal/ on how much they are in demand./ The ball rolled straight towards me./ Unless the sea is extremely rough,/ I never feel seasick./ Please stop rocking the chair/ backwards and forwards./ Most people like to live a quiet life,/ but often find their lives/ are interfered with/ by those who like to stir up trouble./ A chicken is not a very brave bird.