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Reading Selection 6.3

Lesson No. 18

Once Upon a Time

ایک دفعہ کا ذکر ہے

Gabriel Okara

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Once upon a time, son,

they used to laugh with their hearts

and laugh with their eyes:

but now they only laugh with their teeth,

while their ice-block cold eyes

search behind my shadow.

ایک دفعہ کا ذکر ہے بیٹے،

وہ اپنے دلوں سے ہنسا کرتے تھے

اور اپنی آنکھوں سے ہنسا کرتے تھے،

لیکن اب وہ اپنے دانتوں سے ہنستے ہیں (یعنی ان کی ہنسی میں مصنوعیت موجود ہے)

جبکہ ان کی سرد نگاہیں (جذبات سے عاری)

میرے سائے کے پیچھے کچھ تلاش کرتی ہیں۔

There was a time indeed

they used to shake hands with their hearts;

but that's gone, son.

Now they shake hands without hearts

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while their left hands search

my empty pockets.

درحقیقت ایک وقت ایسا تھا

کہ وہ گرم جوشی سے ہاتھ ملایا کرتے تھے۔

لیکن اب وہ وقت گزر چکا ہے، بیٹے۔

اب وہ بے دلی سا تھ ہاتھ ملاتے ہیں۔

جبکہ ان کا بائیاں ہاتھ تلاش کرتا ہے۔

میری خالی جیبوں کو

"Feel at home"Come again':

they say, and when I come

again and feel

at home, once, twice,

there will be no thrice -

for then I find doors shut on me.

اپنے گھر جیسا محسوس کرو۔ دوبارہ تشریف لاؤ۔

وہ کہتے ہیں اور جب میں آتا ہوں

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دوبارہ اور محسوس کرتا ہوں

گھر پر، ایک مرتبہ، دو مرتبہ

تو تیسری بار کی ضرورت نہیں آتی

کیونکہ میں اپنے لئے دروازوں کو بند پاتا ہوں۔

So I have learned many things, son.

I have learned to wear many faces

like dresses - homeface,

officeface, streetface, hostface,

with all their conforming smiles

like a fixed portrait smile.

بس میرے بیٹے میں نے بہت کچھ سیکھا ہے۔

میں نے بہت سے چہرے بدلنا سیکھا ہے۔

لباسوں کی طرح، گھر کا چہرہ

دفتر کا چہرہ، گلی کا چہرہ، میزبان کا چہرہ

ان تمام سے مطابقت رکھنے والی مسکراہٹوں کے ساتھ۔

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جیسے نسب شدہ تصویر کی مسکراہٹ۔

And I have learned too

to laugh only with my teeth

and shake hands without my heart.

I have also learned to say. 'Goodbye,'

When I mean 'Good-riddance': getting rid of something unpleasant

To say 'Glad to meet you',

Without being glad;

And to say 'it's been nice talking to you,'

After being bored.

اور میں یہ بھی سیکھ چکا ہوں

ہنسنا مگر سے دانتوں کے ساتھ

اور ہاتھ ملانا مگر بے دلی کے ساتھ

اور بے دلی کے ساتھ ساتھ ملانا سیکھ لیا ہے،

اور میں "گڈ بائی "بھی کہنا سیکھ چکا ہوں

جب میرا مطلب ہوتا ہے جان چھوڑو۔

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یہ کہنا کہ آپ سے مل کر خوشی ہوئی۔

بغیر خوش ہوئے

اور یہ کہنا کہ آپ سے بات چیت کر کے خوش ہوئی

بوریت محسوس کرنے کے بعد۔

But believe me, son.

I want to be what I used to be

When I was like you.

I want to unlearn all these muting things. — Unspoken; unexpressed

How to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror

Shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs! — Pointed hollow teeth

لیکن یقین کرو، بیٹے

میں وہی چاہتا ہوں جو میں پہلے تھا۔

جب میں تمہاری طرح تھا

میں ان ساری گونگی چیزوں کو سیکھنا نہیں چاہتا

سب سے بڑھ کر یہ کہ میں دوبارہ سیکھنا چاہتا ہوں

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کس طرح ہنسا جاتا ہے کیونکہ میری ہنسی آئینے میں

صرف میرے دانت دکھاتی ہے جیسے سانپ کے ننگے دانت۔

So, show me, son,

How to laugh; show me how

I used to laugh, and smile

Once upon a time when I was like you.

پس مجھے دکھا دو، بیٹے

کی طرح ہنسا جاتا ہے، دکھاؤ مجھے کس طرح

ہمیں ہنستا اور مسکرایا کرتا تھا

ایک دفعہ کا ذکر ہے جب میں تم جیسا تھا

About the Poet

Gabriel Okara was born in Western Nigeria in 1921, Okara may be described as a highly original poet, uninfluenced by other poets in 1979, he was awarded the Commonwealth Poetry Prize Okara shows a concern regarding what happens when the ancient culture of Africa is faced with the onslaught of western culture

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SUMMARY OF THE POEM

"ONCE UPON A TIME"

BY GABRIEL OKARA

The poem "Once Upon A Time" written by Gabriel Okara illustrates the changes a father has seen in him throughout his life which have been influenced by the way society has changed.

In the first stanza at the start of the poem Okara writes 'they used to laugh with their hearts and eyes but now they only laugh with their teeth while their ice-block cold eyes search behind my shadow " This phrasal illustrates the change in the way people act showing that their laughs used to be genuine and heartfelt however now their attitudes have changed the description of "laugh with their teeth illustrates

someone showing false interest the dark imagery "ice-block cold eyes which follows shows that there is no emotion or feeling in the action

In the next stanza Okara describes how they used to shake hands with their hearts' implying that the actions were genuine and were also symbolic of good intentions however "Now they shake hands without hearts while their left hands search my empty pockets This phrase illustrates that all good intentions have gone and how now it is every man for him Everybody is only focusing on their own personal gain The use of a metaphor emphasizes how there is a lack of trust as everybody is trying to use each other.

The phrase "empty pockets could connote that he has been stripped of all genuine happiness and has been left feeling empty and alone

In the next stanza Okara shows the change in him as a man "And I have learned too to say Goodbye', when I mean Good-riddance Here there is an

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evident shift in the stanza due to the fact that he is now talking about himself and how he too has learned to be false This could imply that society has pressured him into changing in a negative way

At the end of the poem Okara confesses "I want to be what I used to be showing instant regret and sadness at the choices he previously made this piece of dialogue could suggest that he can only be himself around his son as he recognizes his younger self in his son the self that was genuine and true, which had not yet been beaten down by society

(OR)

The poem is written as though a father were talking to his son Gabriel Okara's Once Upon A Time is about the artificiality of relationships and manners prevailing in the present day world The past according to the poet is better than the present because there were love sincerity and faithfulness in the past Now that in the present everything has changed Hence the poet wants to relive the past

Once upon a time the people used to laugh with their hearts and eyes That Is there was genuineness in what they said and did But in the present there is only outward teeth laugh without understanding the speaker's real self The eyes are described as ice block - cold The people have become money minded and naturally develop their relationships with the rich Even when shaking hands with others they are very artificial and hence mechanical.

Guests are no longer welcome these days They are given a warm reception only once If they visit their mends or relatives thrice or more number of days the doors are shut on them in this material and artificial world the poet nas learnt many things especially wearing many faces like putting on many dresses One has to have home face office face cocktail face and so on All are fixed just like the portrait smile As this is the way of the world the poet - cum speaker has also learnt

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laughter with teeth the art of saying goodbye when he means Good riddance Glad to meet you when he is not glad and Nice talking to you when bored

The poet wants to be like his son with all the exemplary conduct He himself becomes the victim of the present showing the fangs of a snake Towards the end of the poem the poet appears to his son to show him how to smile wholeheartedly Desire to relive the past is nothing but a yearning for the innocence faithfulness and sincerity

STUDY QUESTIONS

Understanding the Poem

1. This poem is a beautiful comparison of what used to be life in the old days and what it is like now the clearly indicates that it is about the past.

The first three stanza compare a way of life a custom or behavior from the past with those of the present:

- The first stanza compares how people laughed in the past and how they laugh now what is the difference?
- The second stanza tells us how people shook hands then and how they do now what is the difference?
- The third stanza talks about the ever-welcoming nature of the people of the past with a less welcoming behavior of present people.

The next two stanza are about what the poet has learnt.

- In the fourth stanza, the poet tells us he has learned the ways of the present-day people. That is to wear different faces on different occasions to deceive others what does 'wearing different faces' mean?
- In the fifth stanza, the poet says that his greeting doesn't mean what they should mean

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In the last two stanza, the poet wishes to be what he used to be:

- In the sixth stanza the poet wishes to be what he was like before, once upon a time.
- In the last stanza, he asks his son to help him become what he used to be to show him how to laugh, etc

2. Why is the poet addressing his son throughout? What is its significance?

Ans: The poet is sad that he belongs to a fake society where people put on fake expressions and smile that suit each point of life. He doesn't want his son, or all the children, follow this hollowness of the society so he addresses his poem to his son.

Writing

Now that you have understood the poem, write a paraphrase / explanation of the poem in your own words.

Ans: Stanza No. 1

Once upon a time, son,
They used to laugh with their hearts
And laugh with their eyes:
But now they only laugh with their teeth,
While their ice-block cold eyes
search behind my shadow.

Paraphrase:

My son! The people of the past were what they actually were. They laughed not only through the core of their hearts but their eyes also truly

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reflected their laughter and joy The people of the modern age are very artificial and they merely show their teeth while laughing Their eyes remain indifferent and unconcerned and as cold and devoid of warmth as a block of ice Modern man is in the habit of searching the defects and weaknesses in others

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Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Once upon a time" composed by Gabriel Okara.

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and sincere There was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites. They are selfish and insincere Their behaviour is artificial and showy They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts

Explanation:

Here Once upon a time suggests how people were once. is far from what is being witnessed in the society now Once upon a time is a phrase used in fairy tales Maybe the poet thinks that expecting sincerity in people's actions is like a fairy tale which is not real.

The poet looks back at a time in the past when people were honest, sincere in their dealings with one another He regrets about the behaviour of the people now He says that he wants to see the frankness of people that existed long time ago The poet expresses his sadness comparing his laugh to that of a snake Teeth are expressionless and they do not express anything The expression ice-block cold' eyes refer to eyes without any warmth. When the poet says people search behind his shadow, he means that people say things What they do not mean and they are hypocritical

Stanza No. 2

There was a time indeed

they used to shake hands with their hearts;

but that's gone, son.

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Now they shake hands without hearts

while their left hands search

my empty pockets.

Paraphrase:

There was a time when people used to shake hands with warmth and enthusiasm But now all has changed Now people shake hands merely for the fulfillment of their selfish motives They shake right hands with each other while their deft hands are in search of how to grab money even from the empty pockets of others Ie now people have become too greedy valueless and superficial

Reference to Context:

These times have been taken from the poem "Once upon a time" composed by Gabriel Okara

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and sincere There was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites they are selfish and insincere. Their behavior is artificial and showy. They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts.

Explanation:

The poet uses the words 'hearts' and faces to refer emotion. He says that people in the past showed emotions on their faces coming from the heart when shaking hands or when laughing it is true that we can see the emotion in one's eyes

Stanza No. 3

'Feel at home!"Come again':

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they say, and when I come

again and feel

at home, once, twice,

there will be no thrice

for then I find doors shut on me.

Paraphrase:

Modern man welcomes the other person he comes across and tells him to come to his house again and again When the other person goes to his house for the first time he is given a warm welcome On the second visit he may be given a welcome But on his third visit he finds that he is not welcomed any more

Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem **"Once upon a time"** composed by **Gabriel Okara**

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and Sincere There was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites They are selfish and insincere Their behaviour is artificial and showy They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts.

Explanation:

The poet says that people these days are not sincere when they say feel at home and come again, they do not really expect others to go there

Stanza No. 4

So I have learned many things, son.

I have learned to wear many faces

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like dresses - homeface,

officeface, streetface, hostface,

with all their conforming smiles

like a fixed portrait smile.

Paraphrase:

I have learnt a lot of clever tactics from the modern men I have learnt to use all kinds of disguises I have learnt to adjust my face like dress according to every different situation My face at home in the office in the street and as a host changed according to the types of the people I meet and the situations I come across I smile with them as they smile but like a dull mute statue has no genuine excitement or warmth of feelings.

Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Once upon a time" composed by Gabriel Okara

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and sincere There was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites They are selfish and insincere Their behaviour is artificial and showy They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts

Explanation:

The speaker tells us that he has learnt to deal with this fake, insincere world by changing himself to one of those people Like others. he too hides his real feelings He says that he has learnt to wear many faces like dresses Just like people keep changing dresses to suit different occasions the poet has learnt to behave differently in different situations

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Stanza No. 5

And I have learned too
to laugh only with my teeth
and shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye,
when I mean 'Good-riddance':
to say 'Glad to meet you',
without being glad;
and to say it's been nice talking to you,
after being bored.

Paraphrase:

I have also learnt to laugh artificially with the people without having any genuine good feelings for them at the time of parting with the people I say goodbye to them but in my heart I am pleased to get rid of them In the same manner when I meet people. I tell them that I am happy to meet them but in fact hate to meet them I tell them that I enjoy their company but actually I feel really bored to see them

Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Once upon a time" composed by Gabriel Okara

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and sincere There was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites They are selfish and insincere Their

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behaviour is artificial and showy They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts

Explanation:

The poet admits that he has learnt to say what fits each situation instead of speaking the truth He fakes his behaviour When he feels like saying Good riddance he says 'goodbye' when he feels like saying 'Good-riddance he says 'Glad to meet you'

Stanza no. 6

But believe me, son.
I want to be what I used to be
when I was like you.
I want to unlearn all these muting things.
Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

Paraphrase:

My son! It is my keen desire to become what I used to be in my childhood like you want to forget about all these bad things of the present day people for which I cannot even find appropriate words to express them I want to learn once again how I used to laugh in my youth My present way of laughing is ugly and horrible and no more than showing teeth like the pointed hollow teeth of a snake

Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Once upon a time"

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composed by Gabriel Okara

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and sincere There was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites They are selfish and insincere Their behaviour is artificial and showy They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts

Explanation:

Here muting refers to changing all the time It may also be like the poet has learnt to behave in such a way that it mutes or silences his real feelings He tells his son that he wants to get rid of this false laugh showing only the teeth The comparison of his laugh in the mirror to a snake's bare fangs brings out the fact that he smile is artificial and might be dangerous The poet regrets his fake behavior and so expresses his desire to unlearn all those bad things and learn how to laugh sincerely

Stanza No. 7

So show me, son,

how to laugh; show me how

I used to laugh and smile

once upon a time when I was like you.

Paraphrase:

My son! Show me how to laugh from the core of my Heart I have forgotten my true self and self-expressions Tell me how I used to laugh and smile in the past when once I was a child like you.

Reference to context:

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These lines have been taken from the poem. 'Once upon a time" composed by Gabriel Okara.

In this poem the poet says that the people of the past were simple and sincere there was no difference between their inner and outer selves The people of the modern age are hypocrites they are selfish and insincere their behaviour is artificial and showy They laugh and shake hands with one another but with a lot of ill will and malice in their hearts

Explanation:

The poet asks his son to show how to laugh sincerely Children do not fake things They show what they feel inside Again, the phrase once upon a time reiterates the fact that he wants to be what he used to be once

Language Study (Grammar)

Active and Passive Voice

Compare:

1) Rana helps Haris

2) Haris is helped by Rana

It will be seen that these two sentences express the same meaning but in sentence 1. form of the Verb shows that the person denoted by the subject does something

Rana (the person denoted by the subject) does something

The Verb helps is said to be in the Active Voice.

In sentence 2, the form of the Verb shows that something is done to the person denoted by the Subject

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Something is done to Haris (the person denoted by the Subject)

The verb helped is said to be in the Passive Voice.

Def A verb is in the Active Voice when its form shows (as sentence 1) that the person or thing denoted by the Subject is doing something or is other words in the doer of the action

The Active Voice is so called because the person denoted by the Subject acts

Def. A Verb is in the Passive Voice when its form shows (as sentence 2) that something is done to the person or thing denoted by the Subject

The Passive Voice is so called because the person or thing denoted by the Subject is not active but passive, that is, suffers or receives action

Def. Voice is that form of a verb which shows whether what is denoted by the Subject does something or has something been done to it.

Note the change from the Active Voice to the Passive Voice in following sentences

Active Voice	**Passive Voice**
Abrar ***loves*** Sahar	Sahar ***is loved*** by Abar
The mason is *building* the wall	The wall *is being built* by the mason
The peon *opened* the gate	The gate *was opened* by the poem
Some boys were *helping* the wounded man	The wounded man wasbeing helped by some boys
Who did this?	By whom was this done?
Why did your brother write such a letter?	Why was such a letter written by your brother?

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It will be noticed that when the Verb is changed from the Active Voice to the Passive Voice, the Object of the Transitive Verb in Active Voice becomes the Subject of the Verb in the Passive Voice

(Thus in sentence 1. Sahar which is the object of loves in the Active Voice. becomes the Subject of is loved in the Passive Voice)

Since the Object of a verb in the active voice becomes the Subject of the passive form, it follows that only Transitive Verbs can be changed into the Passive Voice, because an Intransitive Verb has no Object.

Students must know when to use the Active and the Passive voice, the ability to change the Active Voice into the Passive and vice versa is not sufficient

The Active Voice is used when the agent (i.e doer of the action is to be made prominent, the Passive. when the person or thing upon which something is done to be made prominent The Passive is, therefore. preferred when the active form would involve the use of an_____ or vague pronoun or noun (somebody they people, we, etc) as object, as,

- My pen has been stolen (Somebody has stolen my pen)
- I was asked my name (They asked me my name)
- English is spoken all over the world (People speak English all over the world)
- I have been invited to the party (Someone has invited me to the party
- We will execute all orders promptly (All orders will be executed by us)

In such cases the agent with by is usually avoided

Note, however, that, as in the examples given earlier the by, cannot be avoided where the agent has some importance and is necessary to complete the

senses

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EXERCISE (1)

Name the Verbs in the following sentences, and tell whether they are in the Active or in the Passive Voice,

1) The cat killed the mouse **Ans: killed-Active**
2) We compelled the enemy to surrender **Ans: compelled-Active**
3) The boy was bitten by a dog **Ans: was bitten __ Passive**
4) The thief was caught **Ans: was caught __ Passive**
5) The boy made a kite **Ans: made__ Active**
6) The house was burned **Ans: was burned __Passive**
7) The young man made a disturbance at the meeting **Ans: made __Active**
8) The captive was bound to a tree **Ans: was bound __Passive**
9) The bird was killed by a cruel boy **Ans: was killed __Passive**
10) The sudden noise frightened the horse **Ans: frightened __Active**
11) He is loved by all **Ans: is loved __ Passive**
12) The exhibition was opened by the Governor **Ans: was opened __ Passive**
13) I see a dark cloud **Ans: see__ Active**
14) His command was promptly obeyed **Ans: was obeyed __ Passive**
15) Some of the cargo was damaged by the sea water **Ans: had been damaged __ Passive**
16) Nothing will be gained by hurry **Ans: will be gained __ Passive**
17) The dog chased the sheep **Ans: chased __ Active**
18) This letter was posted last night **Ans: was posted __ Passive**
19) The field is ploughed **Ans: was ploughed __ Passive**
20) The dog was teased by the boy **Ans: was teased __ Passive**
21) The cat drank all the milk **Ans: drank __ Active**
22) A stone struck me on the head **Ans: struck __ Active**

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23) The old gentleman takes snuff **Ans: takes __ Active**

24) The money was lost **Ans: was lost __ Passive**

25) The letter has just been posted **Ans: has been posted __ Passive**

EXERCISE

Turn the following sentences from Active Voice to Passive Voice.

1) The cat killed the mouse.

Ans: The mouse was killed by the cat

2) The man cut down the tree

Ans: The tree was cut down by the man

3) Columbus discovered America

Ans: America was discovered by Columbus

4) His teacher praised him

Ans: He was praised by his teacher

5) The boy teased the dog

Ans: The was teased by the boy

6) The syce feeds the horse every day

Ans: The horse is fed by the syce everyday

7) The police arrested him

Ans: He was arrested

8) Rana was making a kite

Ans: A kite was being made by Rana

9) The boy caught the ball

Ans: The ball was caught by the boy

10) My father will write a letter

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Ans: A letter was written by my father

11) I will conquer him

Ans: He will be conquered (by me)

12) He kept me waiting

Ans: I was kept waiting

13) The hunter shot the lion

Ans: The lion was shot by the hunter

14) Haris opened the door

Ans: The door was opened by Haris

15) A policeman caught the thief

Ans: The thief was caught by a policeman

16) Sohrab threw the ball

Ans: The ball was thrown by Sohrab

17) He scored twenty runs

Ans: Twenty runs were scored by him

18) Your behavior vexes me

Ans: I am vexed by your behavior

19) Manners revel character

Ans: Character is revealed by manners

20) He made a very remarkable discovery

Ans: A very remarkable discovery was made by him

21) Little strokes tell great oaks

Ans: Great oaks are felled by little strokes

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22) David will bring the pony

Ans: The pony will be brought by David

23) Everyone loves him

Ans: He is loved by everyone

24) My cousin has drawn this picture

Ans: This picture has been drawn by my cousin

25) We expect good news

Ans: Good news is expected.

26) The farmer gathering the harvest

Ans: The harvest is gathered by the farmer

27) His own brother swindled by his own brother

Ans: He was swindled by his own brother

28) The recitation pleased the inspector

Ans: The inspector was pleased by the recitation

29) Somebody has put out the light

Ans: The light has been put out

30) The enemy has defeated our army

Ans: Our army had been defeated

31) They sell radios here

Ans: Radios are sold here

32) I have sold my bicycle

Ans: My bicycle has been sold

33) People will soon forget it

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Ans: It will be soon forgotten

34) He opened the theatre only last month

Ans: The theatre was opened only last month

35) We prohibit smoking

Ans: Smoking is prohibited

When verbs that take a direct and an indirect object in the Active Voice are changed to the Passive either object may become the subject of the Passive verb while the other is retained and is parsed as the Retained Object after a passive verb

Active Voice	Passive Voice
The Durban refused him admittance	Admittance was refused to him by the Durban He was refused admittance by the Durban
Mr Krishan teaches us grammar	Grammar is taught to us by Mr Krishna We are taught grammar by Mr Krishna
The manager will give you a ticket	A ticket will be given to you by the manager You will be given a ticket by the manager
Who taught you French?	By whom was French taught to you? By whom were you taught French?
He handed her a chair	A chair was handed to her She was handed a chair

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Compare:

1) The window is broken

2) He is gone (He has gone)

The verb is broken is in the Passive voice

Do not however make the mistake of supposing that the verb is gone is in the passive Voice. The verb go is Intransitive and only a Transitive Verb can be used in the Passive Voice.

For the same reason the verbs in the following sentences are in Active Voice

He is come he is arrived (rare in current English)

There are a few transitive verbs which even in an active form are sometimes used in a passive sense as

- These mangoes taste sour (i.e are sour when they are tasted)
- The rose smells sweet (i.e sweet when it is smelt)
- The cake eats short and crisp (i.e are the short and crisp when they are eaten)
- At least the play reads well (i.e affects the reader well when it is read)

Exercise (3)

Change the following sentences so that the Verbs will be in the Passive Voice.

1) We saw you and him

Ans: You and he were seen by us.

2) They asked me my name.

Ans: I was asked by name. OR My name was asked by him.

3) We refuse them admission

Ans: They were refused admission

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4) I bought the baby a doll

Ans: A doll was bought for the baby.

5) They found him guilty of murder

Ans: He was found guilty of murder

6) A thunderstorm often turns milk sour

Ans: Milk is often turned sour by a thunderstorm

7) You cannot pump the ocean dry

Ans: The ocean cannot be pumped dry

8) They saw the storm approaching

Ans: The storm was seen approaching

9) He keeps me waiting

Ans: I am kept waiting

10) They painted the house red

Ans: The house was painted red

11) He told me to leave the room

Ans: I was told to leave the room

12) He promised me a present

Ans: I was promised a present OR A present was promised to me

13) I shall order the carriage

Ans: The carriage will be ordered

14) The boy is climbing the cliff

Ans: The cliff is being climbed by the boy

15) One may accomplish many things by a little effort

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Ans: Many things can be accomplished by a little effort

16) I am watching you very carefully

Ans: You are being watched carefully

EXERCISE (4)

Rewrite the following sentences so that the Verbs will be in the active Voice.

1) He was praised by his father

Ans: His father praised him

2) The first railway was built by George Stephenson

Ans: George Stephenson built the first railway

3) The horse was frightened by the noise

Ans: The noise frightened the horse

4) Not a word was spoken by Latif

Ans: Latif did not speak a word OR Latif spoke not a word

5) The teacher was pleased with the boy's work

Ans: The boy's work pleased the teacher

6) He was taken to the hospital by his friend

Ans: His friends took him to the hospital

7) The town was destroyed by an earthquake

Ans: An earthquake destroyed the town

8) The road was lined with people

Ans: People lined the road

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9) The president was welcomed by the people

Ans: The people welcomed the President

10) Shakuntala was written by Kalidas

Ans: Kalidasa wrote Shakuntala

11) The building was damaged by the fire

Ans: The fire damaged the building

12) I was struck by his singular appearance

Ans: His singular appearance struck me

13) The French fleet was defeated by Nelson

Ans: Robots built those cars

14) The streets were thronged with spectators

Ans: Spectators thronged the streets

15) The trees were blown down by the wind

Ans: The wind blew down the trees

16) We shall be blamed by everyone

Ans: Everyone will blame us

17) The child was knocked down by a car

Ans: A car knocked down the child

18) Alice was not much surprised at this

Ans: This did not much surprise Alice

19) He will be greatly surprised if he is chosen

Ans: I will greatly surprise him if they choose him

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EXERCISE (5)

Write three sentences with the verbs in the active voice, and rewrite them with the verb in the passive voice.

Ans:

	Active voice	Passive voice
1.	Everyone praised the boy	The boy was praised by everyone
2.	Columbus discovered America	America was discovered by Columbus
3.	Someone has stolen my purse	My purse has been stolen

We give further examples of the interchange of active and passive voice

Active	All his friends laughed at him
Passive	He was laughed at by all his friends
Active	They made him king
Passive	He was made king
Active	The romans expected to conquer carthage
Passive	It was expected by the romans that they would conquer cathage
Active	One should keep ones promise
Passive	Promise should be kept
Active	Give the order

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Passive	Let the order be given
Active	Someone has picked my pocket
Passive	My pocket has been picked
Active	Circumstances will oblige me to go
Passive	I shall be obliged to go

EXERCISE (6)

In the following sentences change the Voice.

1) We elected Balu captain.

Ans: Babu was elected captain

2) I saw him opening the box.

Ans: He was seen opening the box

3) We must listen to his word.

Ans: His words must be listened to

4) Shall I ever forget those happy days?

Ans: Will those happy days ever be forgotten?

5) By whom was this jug broken?

Ans: Who broke this jug?

6) His subordinates accused him of various offences

Ans: He was accused of various offences by his subordinates

7) One cannot gather grapes from thistles

Ans: Grapes cannot be gathered from thistles

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8) The telegraph wires have been cut.

Ans: Someone has cut off the telegraph wires.

9) Alas! We shall hear his voice no more.

Ans: Alas! His voice will be heard no more

10) The French surrender Quebec to the English in 1759

Ans: They held the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand

11) Without effort nothing can be gained

Ans: Without effort we/one can gain nothing

12) Do not insult the weak

Ans: Let the weak not be insulted

13) All desire wealth and some acquire it

Ans: Wealth is desired by all and (is) acquired by some

14) Why should I be suspected by you?

Ans: Why should you suspect me?

15) The information is kept on computer

Ans: We keep the information on our computer

16) The legend tells us how the castle received its name

Ans: We are told by the legend how its name was received by the castle

17) My watch was lost.

Ans: I lost my watch

18) Why did he defraud you of your earnings?

Ans: Why were you defrauded of your earning by him?

19) The public will learn with astonishment that war is imminent

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Ans: It will be learned/learnt by the public with astonishment that war is imminent

20) He made his wife do the work

Ans: His wife was made to do the work (by him)

21) The master appointed him monitor

Ans: He was appointed monitor

22) The doctor despaired of his recovery

Ans: His recovery was despaired of by the doctor

23) He was refused admittance

Ans: They refused him admittance

24) They laughed at his warnings and objected to all his proposals

Ans: His warnings were laughed at and all his proposals (were) objected to

25) The people regarded him as an impostor and called him a villain

Ans: He was regarded as an impostor and called a villain

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