



The passive; The passive – verbs with two objects; The passive with say, know, believe, etc.

1 Circle the correct alternative.

- In 2015, buildings in Western Mexico were destroyed/ are destroyed by the strongest hurricane ever recorded.
- In December, some towns in northern England were flooded/was flooded after heavy rain.
- California has been affected/was affected by drought for the last four years.
- Heavy rain is predicted/are predicted to fall over the next few days due to a new area of low pressure.
- When a volcano starts producing lava and ash, the local residents should be evacuated/was evacuated for their own safety.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs given.

- The flood widespread damage to the town. (cause)
- The hurricane to hit the coast at 2 pm, but in the end it changed direction. (forecast)
- The survivors eight hours after the avalanche occurred. (find)
- Forest fires rapidly when it hasn't rained for a long time. (spread)
- When a town is evacuated, the evacuees accommodation in special shelters. (give)

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence.

- Aid was promised to the refugees living in the mountains.
The refugees living in the mountains
- An award was given to Beyoncé for her charity work.
Beyoncé for her charity work.
- A special prize was awarded to the local firefighters for their hard work.
The local firefighters for their hard work.
- Temporary accommodation in a sports centre was given to the evacuees.
The evacuees in a sports centre.
- Money was lent to the survivors to help them rebuild their lives.
The survivors rebuild their lives.

4 Find and correct the mistakes.

- Global warming was believed to be one of the causes of the rise in extreme weather, but scientists are not sure.
- London is claim to be the most popular city for tourists to visit.
- Many people have be reported missing after the severe floods.
- It is not knew how many animals died in the disaster.
- The award for the most successful charity was presented for the Queen.

5 Complete the text with the correct phrases.

- were introduced • should be implemented •
is being considered • was declared • It is said •
are also believed to be • were created •
should be explored • have been granted •
is reported

Never-ending drought

In January 2015 a state of emergency (1) in California as the drought entered its fourth year. Assistance programs (2) to help residents facing water shortages. Some farms (3) government funds to help them continue working. In June emergency conservation regulations (4) to make people reduce water use. In some cities, the problem has become so serious that a water-shaming policy (5) This would allow the local authorities to name companies and house owners who use excessive quantities of water. La Niña (6) to be at least partly to blame for the drought because it created a continuous high pressure system close to the Californian coast. However, urban growth and farming crops that require a lot of water (7) causes. Lack of water is not the only problem. With large amounts of dead vegetation, the ground becomes drier and there is a high risk of forest fires. (8) that even if the drought ends soon, it will take years for the land to recover. In the meantime, water efficiency methods (9) and ideas such as desalination to make use of seawater (10)