

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI URBINO CARLO BO
Centro Linguistico d'Ateneo

Accertamento di lingua: **Inglese**
Academic writing: dottorandi C1

GRAMMAR

Active / Passive

Put the following sentences into Passive Voice

1. We keep the information on our computer.
The information.....
2. Shakespeare didn't write *War and Peace*.
War and Peace
- 3 They offered me the job but I refused it.
I.....
- 4 The company will pay for his travel expenses.
His travel expenses

B - Formal Passive

News reports often use a formal Passive structure.

Rewrite these sentences beginning as shown. Use a different formal PASSIVE structure.

- 1 It is expected that the weather will be good tomorrow.
The weather is
- 2 It is said that the company is losing money.
The company is
- 3 Police believe that the suspect has left the country.
The suspect
- 4 Lawyers expect that the trial will last three months.
The trial

C - Present Perfect Simple; Present Perfect Continuous; Past Simple

Complete the sentence with the Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I'm sorry to keep you waiting. I hope you long. (not / wait)
- 2 Helen the test an hour before the end. (complete)
- 3 Sam a day off since last April. (not / take)
- 4 I their last album but I'm not keen on the new one. (like)

D - Past Simple and Past Perfect

Complete the sentences with the Past Simple or the Past Perfect of the verb in brackets.

- 1 When I to use my laptop computer, I realized the battery down (try, run)
- 2 I the computer off, but forgot that I my work (turn, not save)

E Conditionals

Complete the sentences using a First Conditional or a Second Conditional.

- 1 If Elizabeth didn't have to work in the evenings, she to more concerts. (go)
- 2 If you are too busy now, we about it later. (talk)
- 3 If the children were older, we a babysitter. (not / need)
- 4 If you to the manager, they will refund your money. (complain)

Third Conditional

Use the information in brackets to complete the sentences. Use the Third Conditional.

- 1 (Alan lost out phone number so he didn't phone us.)
If Alan not our phone number, he us.
- 2 (We didn't make a cake because we forgot to buy eggs.)
We a cake if we not to buy eggs.

VOCABULARY AND ACADEMIC STYLE

During the semester, we focused on a number of *adjective + noun combinations* which are particularly frequent in academic contexts (*important aspect; particular significance, etc.*).

A - Read the statements below and complete them with an appropriate noun or adjective.

- 1 Baklov's work has some extremely implications for our work today.
- 2 Werner's work had an enormous on the way we build bridges today.
- 3 A proportion of Tomaz's work was devoted to international law. Three of her five books were on the subject.

B - Rewrite the sentences substituting an appropriate adjective for the words in bold.

- 1 Nowhere in the article does the author make mention **in a direct, clear and exact way** of the 20 cases which were never resolved.

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- 2 The destruction of the riverbank will cause a decline **which is bound to happen** in the numbers of small animals.

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- 3 There is opposition among students **in many places** to the idea of longer semesters.

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C - Choose the best word in italics to complete the sentences.

- 1 Learning from your mistakes is an *infinite / intrinsic* part of making progress.
- 2 The professor always insists that even the most junior research associate is an *unstable / integral* part of the team.
- 3 Her attempt to *confine / restrain* the children from making a noise in the library met with little success.

D - Read the following sentences. One word in each sentence does not fit. Put a line through the word which does not fit the sentence.

- 1 The writer provides some *growing / telling / striking / illuminating* examples.
- 2 The evidence *suggests / points to / supports / emerges* a different conclusion.
- 3 Lopez *collected / reflected / obtained / recorded* some fascinating data.

E - Correct the sentences below. All of the sentences have errors connected with prepositions.

- 1 The country emerged off the crisis as a much stronger power.
- 2 Excellent teaching coupled for first-class research have made this a successful college.
- 3 The professor commented for a number of inconsistencies in the student's essay.

F - Language focus: cause and effect

Combine the sentences in each set with an -ing clause of result

The payment processing division of the bank announced that its systems had been breached by unknown intruders. Because of this breach, the personal information belonging to about 1.5 million cardholders was compromised.

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G - Language focus: This + summary phrases

Complete these sentences with a summary word.

Irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa is in most cases performed using a rope and bucket to raise and distribute water from a shallow open well. While this has the advantage of being inexpensive, its low capacity and labor-intensive nature is decidedly a disadvantage.

H - Language focus: Participles

Improve the flow of ideas for the process description by adding a time adverbial, linking passive, or using an -ed participle. There may be several possibilities.

Tempering glass

The glass is cut to size. It is inspected to determine if it has any imperfections. The glass is heated to over 600°C. The glass is cooled in a step known as quenching.

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ACADEMIC WRITING: *TECHNIQUES OF TEXTUAL ANALYSIS*

TEXT A

Read the text and answer the questions in the discussion section.

(1) The Sahel zone lies between the Sahara desert and the fertile savannahs of northern Nigeria and southern Sudan. (2) The word *sahel* comes from Arabic and means marginal or transitional, and this is a good description of these semi-arid lands, which occupy much of the West African countries of Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad. (3) Unfortunately, over the last century the Sahara desert has steadily crept southwards eating into once productive Sahel lands. (4) United Nations surveys show that over 70 percent of the dry land in agricultural use in Africa has deteriorated over the last 30 years. (5) Droughts have become more prolonged and more severe, the most recent lasting over twenty years in parts of the Sahel region. (6) The same process of desertification is taking place across southern Africa as the Kalahari desert advances into Botswana and parts of South Africa. (7) One of the major causes of this desert advance is poor agricultural land use, driven by the pressures of increasing population. (8) Overgrazing – keeping too many farm animals on the land – means that grasses and other plants cannot recover, and scarce water supplies are exhausted. (9) Over-cultivation – trying to grow too many crops on poor land – results in the soil becoming even less fertile and drier and beginning to break up. (10) Soil erosion follows, and the land turns into desert. (11) Another cause of desertification is loss of tree cover. (12) Trees are cut down for use as fuel and to clear land for agricultural use. (13) Tree roots help to bind the soil together, to conserve moisture, and to provide a habitat for other plants and animals. (14) When trees are cut down, the soil begins to dry and loosen, wind and rain erosion increase, other plant species die, and eventually the fertile topsoil may be almost entirely lost, leaving only bare rock and dust. (15) The effects of the loss of topsoil and increased drought are irreversible. (16) They are, however preventable. (17) Careful conservation of tree cover and sustainable agricultural land use have been shown to halt deterioration of soils and lessen the effects of shortage of rainfall. (18) One project in Kita in south-west Mali funded by UNDP has involved local communities in sustainable management of forest, while at the same time providing a viable agricultural economy based on the production of soaps, bee-keeping, and marketing shea nuts. This may be a model for similar projects in other West African countries.

1 What is the author's purpose? What assumptions does the author make about the background knowledge of the audience?

2 We identified the parts of a problem solution text. (situation - problem - solutions - evaluation)
Which sentences belong to each part?

3 Why has the author used definitions in the text ?

4 Can you find examples old-to-new information flow?

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TEXT B

Read the ABSTRACT and answer the questions in the discussion section.

Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences 2013 Conference Proceedings

THE EFFECT OF TIME CONSTRAINTS ON MATHEMATICS TEST PERFORMANCE OF UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Jamie Liner Gaston
Louisiana State University

ABSTRACT

(1) For many students, the words “timed mathematics test” evoke a sense of dread or fear of impending failure. (2) Studies examining the correlation between anxiety and performance on timed versus untimed tests, specifically mathematics and statistics tests, have shown that students often focus less on the test itself and more on how much time is left to complete the test (Onwuegbuzie & Seaman, 1995; Walen & Williams, 2002). (3) In this preliminary study, it is hypothesized that stress, provoked by a timed testing condition, will decrease performance on mathematics tests. (4) Participants include 42 college students enrolled in an experimental psychology course. (5) The participants are split into two groups according to laboratory class section: a Constraint group (consisting of 15 females and 9 males) and a Relaxed group (consisting of 15 females and three males). (6) Both groups were given a timed 57 problem mathematics addition test. (7) The time constraints were 4 minutes for the Constraint and 12 minutes for the Relaxed. (8) The State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) was administered after timed testing. (9) The results of this study support the hypothesis that time constraints decrease performance on mathematics tests. (10) This paper details the results of the pilot study and offers suggestions for future research.

1 Can you identify any of the 6 Rhetorical Moves which are often found in Conference Abstracts?
In which sentences do they occur?

- outlining/ promoting/ problematizing
- justifying this research study
- procedural comments
- main findings
- highlighting outcome
- further observations / future developments

2 Can you find any of the descriptors listed by Berkenkotter and Huckin (1995) for high-rated conference abstracts?

3 Can you identify additional aspects of formal writing in the abstract? (contractions/ no contractions, etc.)

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WRITING

***Choose one of the following TASKS .
Your final text should be 200-300 words.***

TASK ONE

Write your own problem-solution text that includes both a process description and a definition, or write a review of the current state of knowledge in your field that raises a question about it and offers a possible or partial solution. Be sure to include the kind of detail that can convince readers of your claim.

TASK TWO

Write your own draft conference abstract of 200-300 words based on one of your own research interests.

ANSWER KEY

GRAMMAR

Active / Passive Put the following sentences into the passive voice.
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1. We keep the information on our computer.
The information **is kept** on our computer.
2. Shakespeare didn't write *War and Peace*.
War and Peace **wasn't written by Shakespeare**.
3. They offered me the job but I refused it.
I **was offered the job but I refused it**.
4. The company will pay for his travel expenses.
His travel expenses **will be paid for by the company**.

B - Formal Passive

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Rewrite these sentences beginning as shown. Use a different formal PASSIVE structure.

1. It is expected that the weather will be good tomorrow.
The weather is **expected to be good tomorrow**.
2. It is said that the company is losing money.
The company is **said to be losing money**.
3. Police believe that the suspect has left the country.
The suspect **is believed to have left the country**.
4. Lawyers expect that the trial will last three months.
The trial **is expected to last three months**.

C - Present Perfect Simple; Present Perfect Continuous; Past Simple

Complete the sentence with the Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous of the verb in brackets.

1. I'm sorry to keep you waiting. I hope you **haven't been waiting** long. (not / wait)
2. Helen **completed** the test an hour before the end. (complete)
3. Sam **hasn't taken** a day off since last April. (not / take)
4. I **liked** their last album but I'm not keen on the new one. (like)

D - Past Simple and Past Perfect

Complete the sentences with the Past Simple or the Past Perfect of the verb in brackets.

- 1 When I **tried** to use my laptop computer, I realized the battery **had run** down (try, run)
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E - Conditionals

Complete the sentences using a First Conditional or a Second Conditional.

- 1 If Elizabeth didn't have to work in the evenings, she **would go / she'd go** to more concerts. (go)
- 2 If you are too busy now, we **'ll talk** about it later. (talk)
- 3 If the children were older, we **wouldn't need** a babysitter.. (not / need)
- 4 If you **complain** to the manger, they will refund your money. (complain)

Third Conditional

Use the information in brackets to complete the sentences. Use the Third Conditional.

- 1 (Alan lost out phone number so he didn't phone us.)
If Alan **had not lost** our phone number, he **would have phoned** us.
- 2 (We didn't make a cake because we forgot to buy eggs.)
We **would have made** a cake if we **had not forgotten** to buy eggs.

VOCABULARY AND ACADEMIC STYLE

During the semester, we we focused on a number of **adjective + noun combinations** which are particularly frequent in academic contexts (**important aspect; particular significance, etc.**).

A - Read the statements below and complete them with an appropriate noun or adjective.

- 1 Baklov's work has some extremely implications for our work today.
Possible answers: important/ significant/ interesting
- 2 Werner's work had an enormous on the way we build bridges today.
Possible answers: impact/ influence
- 3 A proportion of Tomaz's work was devoted to international law. Three of her five books were on the subject.
Possible answers: considerable / significant

B - Rewrite the sentences substituting an appropriate adjective for the words in bold.

1 Nowhere in the article does the author make mention **in a direct, clear and exact way** of the 20 cases which were never resolved.

Possible answer: *Nowhere in the article does the author make explicit mention of the 20 cases which were never resolved.*

2 The destruction of the riverbank will cause a decline **which is bound to happen** in the numbers of small animals.

Possible answer: *The destruction of the riverbank will cause an inevitable decline in the numbers of small animals.*

3 There is opposition among students **in many places** to the idea of longer semesters.

Possible answer: *There is widespread opposition among students to the idea of longer semesters.*

C - Choose the best word in italics to complete the sentences.

Answers:

1 Learning from your mistakes is an *intrinsic* part of making progress.

2 The professor always insists that even the most junior research associate is an *integral* part of the team.

3 Her attempt to *restrain* the children from making a noise in the library met with little success.

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Combine the sentences in each set with an -ing clause of result

The payment processing division of the bank announced that its systems had been breached by unknown intruders. Because of this breach, the personal information belonging to about 1.5 million cardholders was compromised.

Possible answers:

The payment processing division of the bank announced that its systems had been breached by unknown intruders, *(thus) compromising* the personal information belonging to about 1.5 million cardholders.

The payment processing division of the bank announced that its systems had been breached by unknown intruders, *(thus) causing* the personal information belonging to about 1.5 million cardholders to be compromised.

G - Language focus: This + summary phrases

Complete these sentences with a summary word.

1 Irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa is in most cases performed using a rope and bucket to raise and distribute water from a shallow open well. While this has the advantage of being inexpensive, its low capacity and labor-intensive nature is decidedly a disadvantage.

Possible answers: method, approach, system, simple technology (etc)

H - Language focus: Participles

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Tempering glass

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Possible answer:

After the glass is cut to size and inspected to determine if it has any imperfections, it is heated to over 600°C and then cooled in a step known as quenching.

Academic writing: Techniques of textual analysis:

Read the text and answer the questions in the discussion section.

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STUDENTS' OWN ANSWERS

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Grading

Grammar / Vocabulary and Academic Style = 40 points
Textual analysis = 30 points
Writing = 30 points