

Active or passive?

5 Some active sentences can sound unnatural. Rewrite them using the passive.

1 They built our house in the 19th century.

2 Someone's decorating my flat at the moment.

3 Has someone fixed the printer yet?

4 We had lots of takeaways while they were installing the new kitchen.

While the new kitchen _____
_____.

5 When we went up to our hotel room, we found that someone hadn't cleaned it.

6 They won't recognize her in those dark glasses.
She _____.

6 Put the verb in brackets into the correct tense and form, active or passive.

1 The robbers _____ (*catch*) as they _____ (*drive*) away from the bank.

2 The postbox _____ always _____ (*empty*) at 12 noon.

3 Her neighbours _____ (*give*) permission to build a huge extension.

4 We _____ (*cycle*) down a quiet country lane when suddenly we _____ (*overtake*) by a police car.

5 When I woke up this morning, the world looked magical. It _____ (*snow*) all night.

6 When you _____ (*arrive*) at the airport, you _____ (*meet*) by one of our holiday representatives.

Tenses in context

7 Read about Matt Perry and complete his blog with verbs in the correct tense, active or passive, positive or negative.

Living abroad

My name is Matt Perry and I'm 14 years old. My family ¹ _____ (*move*) to Japan from Denver, Colorado, three years ago, and we ² _____ (*live*) in Tokyo for the past two years. At first, it was a real culture shock and I ³ _____ (*think*) I'd never fit in, but now Tokyo feels like home, and I ⁴ _____ (*miss*) it when we move back to Denver next year.



Why did we move?

My dad's an officer in the US Air Force and he ⁵ _____ (*relocate*) abroad many times. In the past, Mum and I stayed in Denver, but we ⁶ _____ (*not want*) to be apart from Dad again, so this time we all moved. We ⁷ _____ (*be*) here for four years by the time we return home next year. That's the longest my dad ⁸ _____ (*live*) anywhere since he joined the Air Force.

What's it like in Japan?

I ⁹ _____ always _____ (*think*) that Japanese people were quite reserved, but they're really sociable. When we first arrived, I ¹⁰ _____ (*join*) a football club and I ¹¹ _____ (*make*) a lot of American, English, and Japanese friends. I ¹² _____ (*learn*) the language for three years now and my Japanese friends say I'm pretty good. But I ¹³ _____ (*not like*) writing Japanese because I always ¹⁴ _____ (*get*) confused by the characters.

What do I miss the most?

I miss pizza and ice cream the most, though I think the pizza ¹⁵ _____ (*get*) better here. Anyway, I ¹⁶ _____ (*be able to*) eat at my favourite pizza restaurant when we go home next year.

I also miss basketball, which was my favourite sport before we came to Japan. My mum ¹⁷ _____ (*miss*) her garden because we ¹⁸ _____ (*not live*) in a house, but a fourth floor apartment. I expect when we ¹⁹ _____ (*be*) back in Denver, we ²⁰ _____ (*miss*) so many things about Japan.

I know I'm only 14, but I've learned an awful lot about myself from living abroad. I'm going to feel very grown-up compared to the other kids when I get home.