Grammar Challenge
Continuous passives
Practice

GRAMMAR CHALLENGE

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH

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Grammar Challenge – continuous passives

Exercise 1:
Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The exam ...</td>
<td>a. ... were being served.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Three people ...</td>
<td>b. ... was still being built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>The building where I work ...</td>
<td>c. ... is being held in the main hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>When I arrived at the party, drinks ...</td>
<td>d. ... is still being prepared.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dinner isn't ready yet. It ...</td>
<td>e. ... are being made to the procedure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>In 1992 the bridge ...</td>
<td>f. ... are being held against their will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Reservations ...</td>
<td>g. ... is being renovated right now.</td>
</tr>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>A number of changes ...</td>
<td>h. ... are not being taken any more.</td>
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**Exercise 2:**
Read the sentence and choose the one option a-d which best fits the space.

1. Concert tickets ... at the box office.
   a. being sold
   b. are being sold
   c. are be sold
   d. are being selling

2. Following yesterday's accident, 3 people are still ... for minor injuries.
   a. treated
   b. being treating
   c. treating
   d. being treated

3. Your suit is not ready yet. It ... right now.
   a. is being cleaned
   b. is being cleaning
   c. is been cleaned
   d. is cleaning

4. I could not use my car yesterday because it ...
   a. was being serviced
   b. were being serviced
   c. was being service
   d. was been serviced

5. He left the room while the money ...
   a. has being collected
   b. was been collected
   c. was being collected
   d. was being collecting

6. We couldn't use the bathroom while it ...
   a. was been refitted
   b. was being refitted
   c. is being refitted
   d. was refitting
Exercise 3: sentence completion
Use the words in the boxes to complete the passive continuous sentences. There are 2 words in each box which you do not need to use.

1. I couldn't wear my suit yesterday because ...

   cleaned was it cleaning been being

2. My brother is in hospital - ... for a chest infection.

   has is treat being treated he

3. ... for the new restaurant?

   taken reservations take are is being

4. ... taken online by students all over the world.

   being this it course been is

5. We had to stay in a hotel while ...

   our was house has decorated been being

6. ... about the missing jewellery.

   was people three are questioned questioning being
BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

Grammar Challenge – continuous passives

Answers

Exercise 1:
Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

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Exercise 2:
Read the sentence and choose the one option a-d which best fits the space.

1. Concert tickets ... at the box office.
   a. being sold – Wrong – you need to add the verb 'to be'.
   b. **are being sold** - Correct – you have used a present passive continuous verb.
   c. are be sold – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'be'.
   d. are being selling – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.

2. Following yesterday's accident, 3 people are still ... for minor injuries.
   a. treated - Wrong – you need to add the verb 'to be' as well as 'being'.
   b. being treating – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.
   c. treating – Wrong - the past passive continuous is made from the verb 'to be' with 'being' and the past participle.
   d. **being treated** - Correct – you have used a present passive continuous verb.
3. Your suit is not ready yet. It ... right now.
   a. is being cleaned - Correct – you have used a present passive continuous verb.
   b. is being cleaning – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.
   c. is been cleaned – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.
   d. is cleaning – Wrong – you need to add 'being', and the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.

4. I could not use my car yesterday because it ...
   a. was being serviced - Correct – you have used a past passive continuous verb.
   b. were being serviced – Wrong – the verb 'to be' needs to agree with the subject.
   c. was being service – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle.
   d. was been serviced – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.

5. He left the room while the money ...
   a. has being collected – Wrong – you need to use the verb 'to be', not 'to have'.
   b. was been collected – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.
   c. was being collected - Correct – you have used a past passive continuous verb.
   d. was being collecting – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.

6. We couldn't use the bathroom while it ...
   a. was been refitted – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.
   b. was being refitted - Correct – you have used a past passive continuous verb.
   c. is being refitted – Wrong – the verb 'to be' should be in the past tense.
   d. was refitting – Wrong – you need to add 'being'.

Exercise 3: sentence completion
Use the words in the boxes to complete the passive continuous sentences. There are 2 words in each box which you do not need to use.

1. I couldn't wear my suit yesterday because it was being cleaned.
2. My brother is in hospital - he is being treated for a chest infection.
3. Are reservations being taken for the new restaurant?
4. This course is being taken online by students all over the world.
5. We had to stay in a hotel while our house was being decorated.
6. Three people are being questioned about the missing jewellery.