Exercises on the passive voice - simple present

Dialogue in the simple present

Complete the short dialogue with the correct forms of the verbs.

A: English is spoken (speak) as a second language by a lot of people.
B: Yes, English is understood (understand) all over the world.
A: In Switzerland four languages are spoken (speak) but not English.

Passive sentences

Put in the correct form of the in the passive voice.

1. A lot of T-shirts are made (make) of cotton.
2. The cotton is grown (grow) in America.
3. It is picked (pick) by machines.
4. The cotton is taken (take) to a factory.
5. The clothes are sold (sell) in the USA and all over the world.
6. Cotton T-shirts are bought (buy) by people who like comfortable clothes.

Passive sentences with adverbs

Put in the correct form of the verb in the passive voice with an adverb.

1. T-shirts are usually washed (usually wash) in a washing machine or by hand.
2. They are often made (often make) in lots of different colours.
3. The maker's name is often put (often put) on the front.
4. A picture is sometimes printed (sometimes print) on the front of T-shirts.
5. T-shirts are often sold (often sell) in supermarkets.
6. They are also found (also find) at markets, airports and in souvenir shops.
Negative passive sentences

*Use the passive voice with not or never to answer the questions. Use the verb from the question.*

1. Do people know who invented the T-shirt? - No, it *isn't known*.
2. Do people think it came from India? - No, it *isn't thought* that it's Indian.
3. Do people say it is uncomfortable? - No, it *isn't said* it is uncomfortable.
4. Do people believe it came from army clothes? - No, *isn't said* to have come from the army but from the US Navy.
5. Do we know if it is "T-shirt" or "tee-shirt"? - No, it *isn't known* which is correct.

A report in passive voice

*Every year Mr and Mrs Hooper go on a trip to London. Put in the verbs in the passive voice.*

1. Mr and Mrs Hooper are taken (take) by car to the station.
2. In London they are met (meet) by a car and a driver from the train.
3. They are taken (take) to a nice hotel and have dinner.
4. They are collected (collect) by car.
5. They are driven (drive) to a theatre and back again after the play.
6. The trip are paid for (pay for) by their son.

Active or passive?

a) *Read the following text and underline all the verbs in the passive voice.*

Books are made on big machines. First, the writer puts words and pictures on a computer. These are sent to a publishers, a company that makes and sells books. There the text is carefully checked. This text is passed on to a printer who puts the words on paper. This is done by different methods. Which method is used? That depends. Some books are printed like newspapers on huge rolls of paper. The printer makes these books quite cheaply, but in large numbers. The pages of the book are cut by machine and are sorted into the correct order. Then the cover is put on. Now the publishers sell the book to bookshops and readers.

b) *Now look at the sentences in the active voice (you haven't underlined the verbs in these sentences. Circle the verb and a double line under the object. The object of the active sentence is going to become the subject of a new passive sentence.*

Example:
First, the writer puts words and pictures on a computer. - First, words and pictures are put on a computer.

Do this with four more active sentences from the text.

1. Books are made and sold (by publishers/a company).

2. The words are put on paper.

3. These books are made quite cheaply.

4. Now the book is sold to bookshops and readers by the publishers.

Some information on the trip to Yosemite National Park
Put in the verbs in the passive voice.

Yosemite is visited (visit) by millions of people every year. We'll cross the park on Highway 120 but this road is closed (close) by snow in winter. We won't use our bus in Yosemite Valley because tourists are taken (take) to all the sights there by free park buses. In California earthquakes are felt (feel) by millions every year and buildings, roads and bridges are sometimes destroyed (destroy) In bad earthquakes people are killed (kill), too.