

FOCUSED PRACTICE

1 THREE FAMOUS MYSTERIES

Grammar Notes 1-4

Fill in the blanks in the following article with passive constructions with **be** and the indicated verbs in the correct tenses.

Three Unsolved Mysteries Continue to Fascinate

So you think there are no more mysteries, that all mysteries are solved 1. (solve) in time? Think again. The pages of history teem with mysteries that have never been cracked 2. (never crack). Consider, for example, the case of the brigantine ship *Mary Celeste*. The ship had left New York for Italy in 1872 and was later sighted 3. (later sight) floating erratically east of the Azores. No one was found 4. (find) on board, though everything else on the ship was determined 5. (determine) to be in order, and there was no indication why the *Mary Celeste* had been abandoned 6. (abandon). In fact, tables had apparently been set 7. (apparently set) for afternoon tea. One theory speculates that the ship was threatened 8. (threaten) by an impending explosion that was caused 9. (cause) by fumes from her cargo of alcohol. That theory, however, has never been proved 10. (never prove).

A second perplexing mystery is that of Amelia Earhart, the famous aviator who in the twenties and thirties was considered 11. (consider) the quintessential example of the rugged

female individual. Earhart flew across the Atlantic with two males in 1928 and set a record for a cross-Atlantic flight in 1932. In 1937 she embarked on her most ambitious plan, a flight around the world. Earhart began her flight in Miami in June and was accompanied 12. (accompany) only by Fred Noonan, her navigator. They reached New Guinea and left for Howland Island in the South Pacific on July 1. After that, no radio reports or messages of any kind were received 13. (receive). No remains of her plane were located 14. (locate) by naval investigators. Did she simply attempt the impossible? she and Noonan were simply killed 15. (she and Noonan / simply kill) when her plane ran out of fuel and crashed in the Pacific? Or could something else have happened? No one really knows.

A third unsolved mystery has to do with monsters—lake monsters, that is. Everyone knows about Nessie, the famous creature that is supposed to inhabit Loch Ness in Scotland.

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Not too many people are yet aware, however, of the monster who is said to live in the Great Lake at Ostersund in central Sweden.

This mystery is still being investigated Over four thousand sightings have been reported of Nessie, the Scottish beast, but the resident of the Great Lake, if he exists, has been only spotted in the future.

175 times in 400 years. The monster, who is named Storsjoeodjuret in Swedish, is described as being 15 to 20 feet long, gray, green, or red in color, with a head like a dog or fish. In 1998, the lake

was combed in a search for clues.

Storsjoeodjuret was not seen, but Adrian

Shine, the noted investigator of the Loch Ness monster, is optimistic, saying about the search that "It was inconclusive but encouraging." More investigations will be undertaken

For the time being, at least, the riddle of the *Mary Celeste*, the fate of Amelia Earhart, and the existence of the Swedish lake monster will have to remain mysterious.

Sources: Adapted from Kenneth C. Davis, *Don't Know Much About History* (New York: Avon Books, 1990) and "Swedish Lake Monster Eludes Search Party," *Dallas Morning News*, August 17, 1998, p. 14A.

2 JOYCE'S DIARY

Grammar Note 5

Read the following diary entry. Fill in the blanks with forms of the **get-passive**.

Dear Diary,

March 15

This has been a strange day. I got woken up by a phone call at five o'clock this morning. When I answered the phone, I heard music in the background, and there was just the click of someone hanging up. I wouldn't think anything of it except that this is the fifth time I've gotten roused out of bed like this. It has me worried. Am I just getting harassed by some "friend" with a weird sense of humor, like my friend Harriet? She gets bothered periodically by practical jokers. Or am I going to get robbed by someone who's been watching me and my apartment? Tomorrow I'm going to get the locks changed on the doors just in case. I'm also going to call the telephone company. I just hope I don't get disturb again tomorrow morning. I need a good night's sleep.

Joyce




Read the following script for a radio bulletin about a hit-and-run accident. In order to strengthen the writing, change all the sentences except the ones that are underlined from passive to active or from active to passive. Write the sentences in the order that makes the most sense.

A hit-and-run accident occurred this evening at approximately 8:45 P.M. The intersection of Fourth and Madison was being crossed by an eight-year-old boy.¹ A blue Toyota Corolla hit him.² Massive injuries were sustained by the boy.³ Paramedics took him to Harborview Medical Center.⁴ They are caring for him in the intensive care ward.⁵ His condition is critical. The sheriff asks anyone with information about the accident to contact the sheriff's office at 444-6968.⁶ They are offering a reward.⁷

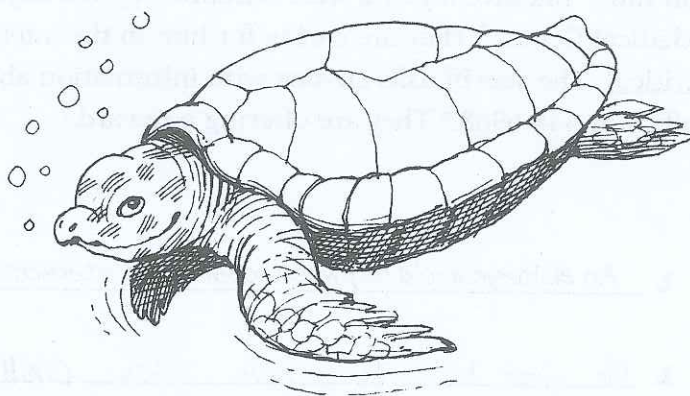
1. An eight-year-old boy was crossing the intersection of Fourth and Madison.
2. He was hit by a blue Toyota Corolla
3. The boy sustained massive injuries
4. He was taken to Harborview Medical Center by paramedics.
5. He's being cared in the ICU.
6. Anyone with information about the accident is asked by the sheriff.
7. A reward is being offered by them.

COMMUNICATION PRACTICE

4 LISTENING

 Some animals have been stolen from the city zoo. Listen to the conversation between police detective Harry Sadler and zoo administrator Lane Akimura. Then listen again. Circle the letter of the sentence that gives correct information about what happened.

1. ☐ a. The janitor found the keeper.
☐ b. The keeper found the janitor.
2. ☐ a. Akimura examined the keeper.
☐ b. A physician examined the keeper.
3. ☐ a. The keeper had been drugged.
☐ b. The keeper had been hit.
4. ☐ a. It takes two weeks to see turtles.
☐ b. Two turtles were taken two weeks ago.
5. ☐ a. The police were notified about the first theft.
☐ b. The police weren't notified about the first theft.
6. ☐ a. The zoo expansion has been completed.
☐ b. The zoo expansion hasn't been completed.
7. ☐ a. Voters haven't yet approved the zoo expansion.
☐ b. Voters have already approved the zoo expansion.
8. ☐ a. First the animals eat. Then the food preparation area is cleaned.
☐ b. First the food preparation area is cleaned. Then the animals eat.
9. ☐ a. Detective Sadler will check the janitor's references himself.
☐ b. Detective Sadler will ask someone else to check the janitor's references.



5

PICTURE DISCUSSION

This is a photograph of one group of crop circles which have been found in grain fields in England. There is still no officially accepted explanation of how these circles were made, or by whom. Form groups of four. Describe the circles in as much detail as possible. Then speculate as to how they might have been made. Use the passive whenever appropriate.

EXAMPLE:

The grass in the circles **has been flattened** by some force.

