

SETTING: CITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Nurse Paul Ramos has just finished his shift at City Children's Hospital. He is giving an update to nurses on the next shift. His account of a young patient is written below. Notice the **passive structures** in bold.

Miss Lola Wilson, aged 3, **was admitted** yesterday morning with a recent history of lethargy, frequent urination and excessive thirst. She **was examined** yesterday and initial tests **have been conducted**. Further investigations are ongoing. A probable diagnosis is Type 1 diabetes. She **is being monitored** very closely. Her condition **will be reviewed** this morning by a specialist. Her parents **need to be shown** how to check her blood sugar levels and how to administer insulin. Upon discharge, a community nurse **will be assigned** to the family for 2 weeks to assist Mr and Mrs Wilson to monitor Miss Wilson's blood sugar levels and give insulin, as well as to offer support.

GRAMMAR BOOST 1: PASSIVES - WHEN TO USE PASSIVES

WE USE THE PASSIVE WHEN:	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
we want to focus on the object of the sentence.	<i>An endocrinologist will review her condition this morning.</i>	<i>Her condition will be reviewed this morning.</i>
the agent is clear.	<i>Medical staff are monitoring her very closely.</i>	<i>She is being monitored very closely.</i>
the agent is unknown.	<i>Somebody needs to show her parents how to check her blood sugar levels.</i>	<i>Her parents need to be shown how to check her blood sugar levels.</i>
the agent is unimportant.	<i>Hospital staff admitted Lola Wilson yesterday with a recent history of lethargy, frequent urination and excessive thirst.</i>	<i>Lola Wilson was admitted yesterday with a recent history of lethargy, frequent urination and excessive thirst.</i>

BOOSTER TIP - AGENT OR NO AGENT?

- 1 Sometimes it is necessary to mention who does the action. If we want to mention the agent, we use **by**.

*Her condition will be reviewed this morning **by** a specialist.*

- 2 The passive is useful to express rules and guidelines which apply to everybody. It is not necessary to mention an agent.

Payment is requested at the time of your appointment.

No jewellery is to be worn.

All valuables are to be left at home.

- 3 The passive is often used with the reporting verbs **say, believe, know, understand**.

He is said to be one of the best endocrinologists in town.

OR

It is said that he is one of the best endocrinologists in town.

She is known to be the leading burns specialist in the country.

OR

It is known that she is the leading burns specialist in the country.

- 4 To be born is a form of passive. There is no active form.

*The baby **was born** at 5.16pm yesterday.*

PRACTICE 4: MULTIPLE CHOICE CLOZE

Read the following Letter of Discharge. Choose the most suitable answer A, B or C to complete each sentence. An example (0) has been done for you.

Ms Christine Mason
Nurse in Charge
Low Isles Retirement Home
4 Beet Street, Newland

4 September (year)

Dear Ms Mason

Re: Mrs Catherine Hamilton (aged 70)

Mrs Hamilton **(0) is being discharged** from Royal Hospital back into your care today. Mrs Hamilton (1) _____ on 30 August (insert year) having suffered a myocardial infarction.

Mrs Hamilton (2) _____ with shortness of breath, discomfort in her chest and pain in both arms. Supplemental oxygen (3) _____ upon arrival at hospital. The medical officer prescribed pain relief. She was transferred to the Coronary Care Unit and monitored (4) _____ the resident cardiologist. She was confined to bed rest for 24 hours.

Initially, Mrs Hamilton (5) _____ assistance with all activities of daily living. She is now able to walk unassisted and can shower and use the toilet with minimal assistance. She can walk up a single flight of stairs with supervision. She should ambulate regularly and continue to participate in light exercise.

Mrs Hamilton (6) _____ to the outpatient cardiac clinic at Royal Hospital for rehabilitation. Appointment dates for the cardiac rehabilitation programme (7) _____ to Mrs Hamilton by the end of this week. In addition, cardiac patients (8) _____ to attend the cardiac support group meetings which (9) _____ weekly at the outpatient cardiac clinic.

Mrs Hamilton (10) _____ a follow-up appointment at Royal Hospital at 10am on 27 September (year).

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely
Nurse in Charge
Royal Hospital

0	A is discharging	B was being discharged	C <u>is being discharged</u>
1	A has been admitted	B was admitted	C is admitted
2	A has been presented	B was presented	C presented
3	A was administered	B is being administered	C administered
4	A for	B by	C with
5	A was required	B required	C is required
6	A has been referred	B has referred	C have been referred
7	A be sent	B will be sent	C will send
8	A are encouraging	B should encourage	C are encouraged
9	A are held	B held	C is held
10	A has been made	B was made	C has