

TOEFL PREP 14

Read and explain these sentences. Then match the vocabulary word to the best synonym in the chart.

- 1.The teacher alluded to the student's unfortunate upbringing as a reason for his poor performance on I.Q. tests.
- 2.The instructor allayed our fears when he explained that a teaching assistant would run tutorial sessions after every lecture.
- 3.Father stressed the importance of remaining steadfast in the face of adversity.
- 4.His strange behavior alienated him from all of his classmates.
- 5.The teacher admonished the unruly child.
- 6.The affable old gentleman joked with the jury and soon had them eating out of his hand.
- 7.Though we weren't all in full accord with his solution to the situation, we agreed that we had to take some action.

allude	calm
alienate	agreement
affable	misfortune
admonish	sociable
accord	refer to
allay	reprimand
adversity	estrangle

Active voice describes a sentence where the subject performs the action stated by the verb. In passive voice sentences, the subject is acted upon by the verb.

Using passive voice can weaken our sentences. Example: *There is a considerable range of expertise demonstrated by the spam senders.* This sentence is much stronger in the active voice. Example: Spam senders demonstrate a considerable range of expertise.

Fix these sentences by converting them to active voice.

- 1.At dinner, six shrimp were eaten by Harry.
- 2.The savannah is roamed by a plethora of large mammals.
- 3.The treaty is being signed by the two kings.
- 4.Money was generously donated to the homeless shelter by Mrs. Roderick.
- 5.The entire stretch of highway was paved by the crew.
- 6.The house will be cleaned by me every Saturday.
- 7.A scathing review was written by the critic from the New York Times.
- 8.By whom were you taught to ski?
- 9.It was determined by the committee that the report was inconclusive.
- 10.We were invited by our neighbors to attend their party.
- 11.The proposed initiative will be bitterly opposed by abortion rights groups.

Write a topic sentence for each of these writing prompts.

1. Should physical exercise classes be required for all students?
2. In your opinion, what is the most important trait, intelligence or a sense of humor?
3. If you could invent something new, what product would you create?
4. If you could change one thing about your hometown, what would it be?
5. What are the disadvantages to owning a car?
6. What things would your American friends like about your hometown?
7. What are the positives and negatives to fast food restaurants?