

# ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

12  
UNIT

## A. Introduction

### A.1 Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the verbs given in brackets.

1. It is a big college. More than a hundred teachers \_\_\_\_\_ (employ) there.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (somebody/ clean) the office yesterday?
3. How much of our country's land area \_\_\_\_\_ (cover) by forest?
4. The hostel gates \_\_\_\_\_ (lock) at 8.00 pm everyday.
5. The parcel \_\_\_\_\_ (send) a month ago and it \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) only yesterday.
6. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (these photographs/take)? In Mumbai?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (you/ take) them, or somebody else?

• Did you use the same type of construction in your answers?

• What are the two types of construction called?

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### A.2 When do we use the passive voice?

**Example: Look at the following sentences:**

**a) My grandfather established this steel factory in 1940.**

**b) This steel factory was established in 1940 by my grandfather.**

We use the passive voice when we are more interested in the action than the person who does it or when we do not know the active subject .

Read the following sentences and, using the given clues, find out the reason for the use of the passive construction as in the Example above.

1. He was killed in the World War II.

Clue: Who must have killed him? Is it obvious?

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2. The Bank was looted last night.

Clue: Have the police caught the culprits?

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3. Sachin Tendulkar is looked upon as a sport icon.

Clue: By whom?

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4. This sort of road-side restaurants can be seen everywhere in this city.

Clue: How will you write it in active voice?

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5. When he arrived at the airport, he was arrested.

Clue: Rewrite the sentence in active voice. Is it a little awkward?

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6. Employer: On account of tight financial condition, bonus will not be paid this year.

Clue: If it is some good news, what voice will the employer use?

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7. I got my hair cut.

Clue: Look at the construction using 'got'.

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We must remember that all active constructions cannot/ should not be transformed into passive constructions mechanically, even if such transformation is possible.

Example: a) He is drinking water.

b) Water is being drunk by him

Though sentence (b) is grammatically correct, we do not write or speak such a sentence. It is unnatural.

Hence it is necessary to keep in mind that the passive voice has certain legitimate uses as discussed in A.2

### **A.3 Match the excerpts below with the text types given in the box.**

#### **Excerpts**

1. The tea leaves are picked and left to dry in the sun.
2. 20 ml of the salt is taken in a test tube and heated over the flame of a Bunsen burner.
3. Many villagers were adversely affected by the flash flood. It is estimated that nearly half of the standing crop has been submerged in water.

#### **Text Types**

- a) Newspaper (and formal) report \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Description of processes \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Academic writings including reporting of scientific experiments \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the text types in which we can expect to find frequent use of the passive?**

### **A.4 Read the following excerpt from a news story and answer the questions given below the excerpt.**

**74 killed in Myanmar quake.**

MAESAI (THAILAND). At least 74 people were killed in a strong earthquake that struck Myanmar, state media said on Friday, while a series of aftershocks have caused panic but only limited damage in Thailand and Laos.

The death toll from Thursday's 6.8 magnitude tremor was expected to rise slightly in Myanmar after 225 homes and nine government buildings were destroyed. Over 100 people were injured, according to state television.

The quake sparked panic, but no major damage in other countries across southeast Asia has been reported. An aftershock of an estimated magnitude of 5.5 rattled Thailand on Friday but caused limited damage, although residents living in properties close to the epicentre were advised to leave their homes.

- Hindustan Times - March 26, 2011

1. Are all the verbs in the passage in passive voice? What do you infer from this?

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2. Underline the passive constructions in the passage and comment on why the passive is more appropriate than the active in these.

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3. Rewrite the second paragraph, keeping all the verbs in active voice. Begin like this.....

Authorities expect the death toll .....

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4. Does the re-written paragraph read well or is it a little awkward? Give reasons for your answer.

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**A.5 Now read the following extracts from a passage about a diamond:**

- a. The Jacob Diamond is believed to have been mined in Africa and was bought in London by Shimla-based trader called A.M. Jacob, after whom it is named.
- b. Weighing 184.75 carats, it was reckoned to be the world's seventh largest diamond.
- c. The Jacob Diamond was bought by the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad, Mahbub Ali Khan.
- d. It was considered to be such a lucky stone that when the Nizam was offered Rs. 1 million by the Agha Khan, he spurned the offer.
- e. The famous diamond was later purchased by the Indian Government for Rs. 40 crore.

1. Give the article a title (use not more than three words) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Underline all the verb forms in the extracts above. What is the most common verb form in the passage called? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write the appropriate newspaper headline for extract c. above. Use the jumbled words given in the box below:

bought - diamond - sixth - Jacob - Hyderabad - by - of - Nizam

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Now write a headline for extract e. above.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Compare your answers with your partner and then the rest of the class. Your teacher will then discuss the possible answers.
6. Now read the extract again. You want to write a headline based on this extract. You also want to focus attention on the Nizam of Hyderabad, not the Agha Khan. Write a headline to summarise this extract in not more than five words.

**A.6 Now practise writing a few headlines based on the following cues.**

- a. e.g. Police - received anonymous tip / complaint - managed to catch culprits - produced in court

CULPRITS CAUGHT AND PRODUCED IN COURT

Expansion: The culprits were caught and prosecuted by the police.

- b. Young Sikkimese - succeeds - scales steepest face - Mt. Kanchenjunga

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Government - passed legislation - ban smoking in state of Tamil Nadu - people not received it well.

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. The ruling party - excessive election spending - no proper accounts kept - no convincing answer to opposition questioning.

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

- c. SIEMENS, Germany has appointed new Managing Director - J. Shubert after convening General Bnody meeting - last week

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

- d. Rice shortage - increase production, says Government

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

- e. Archaeological Survey of India - has excavated Buddhist Stupa - in village in Haryana

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

- f. Cricket team - prepares - tour to England - July 2011- selectors announce team

Expansion: \_\_\_\_\_

**A.7 In two places in the incomplete sentence there has been some reduction, in order to avoid repetition.**

What are the two words missing between if and found?

'If (\_\_\_\_\_) found guilty', she will be given a life sentence.

And what are the three words missing between 'if' and 'innocent'?

'If (\_\_\_\_) innocent', she will sue the police for wrongful arrest.

**Read the following paragraph, which contains some repetition. Edit and rewrite the sentences so that you have one improved sentence.**

- a. The policeman, having been injured by the angry crowd, was lifted up by two Arun College students. He was carried to a nearby ambulance. Then he was taken to the city hospital.

\_\_\_\_\_

Now give the sentence you have written a headline. Some of it has been done for you.

Policeman \_\_\_\_\_ students

- b. Suppose you wish to focus attention on the kindness or bravery of the students who helped the policeman, rather than on the policeman himself. Rewrite passage a. above so that the focus is on the students, and give your passage a headline.

**What is the difference between the verb forms you used in 'a' above and those you used in 'b'?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## B. Present Passive

### B1. Read the set of instructions below and underline the main verb in each sentence.

#### HOW TO MAGNETISE A SCREWDRIVER USING A COIL

1. Place a screwdriver inside a coil carrying a direct current.
2. It becomes magnetised.
3. Remove it from the coil.
4. Place the screwdriver in iron filings.
5. It attracts the filings.

When we write a description of this experiment, which tense do we use?

Complete the description of the experiment using the information in B 1, by writing the verbs in the correct form. One example has been done for you.

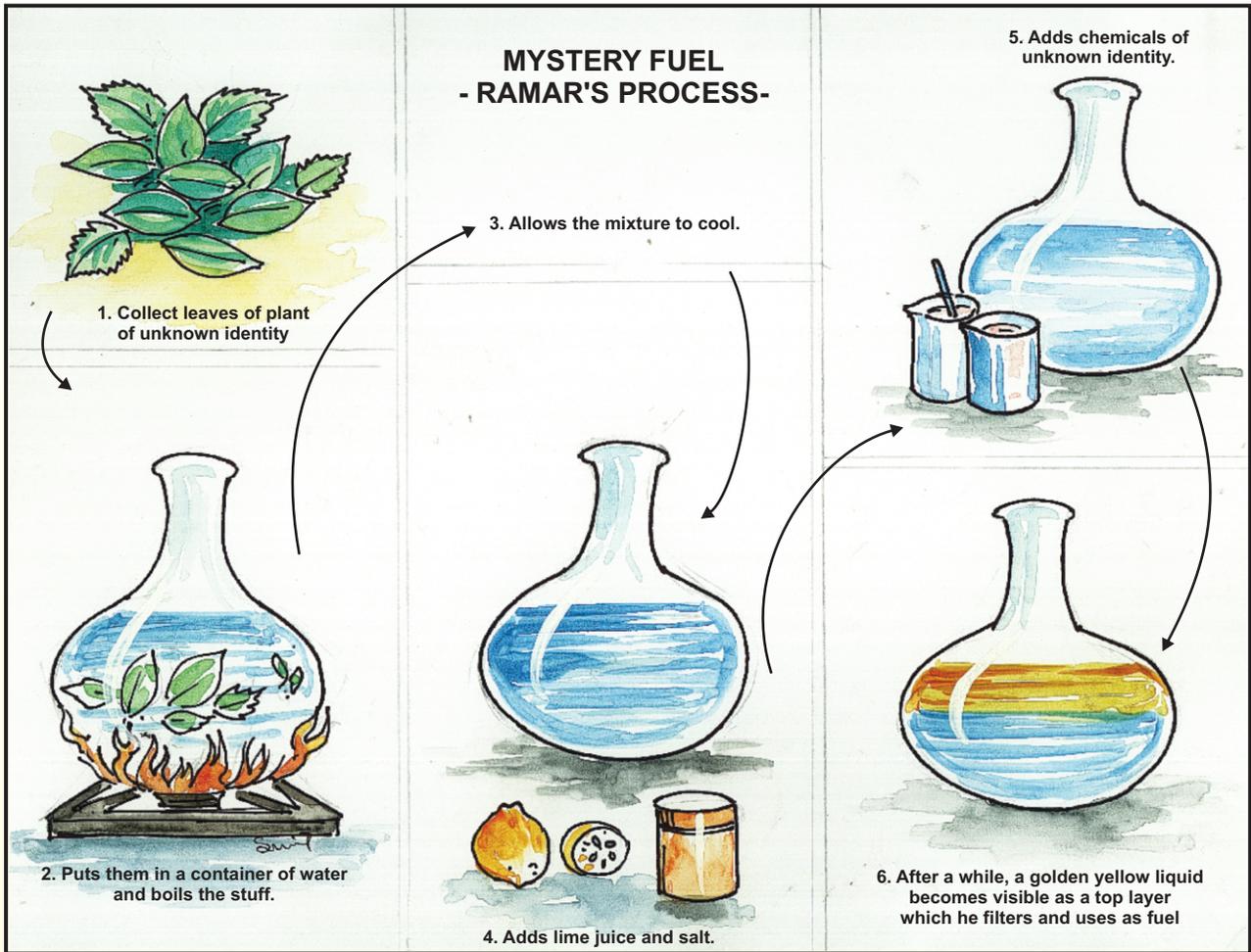
A screwdriver (place) is placed inside a coil carrying a direct current. The screwdriver (become) \_\_\_\_\_ magnetised. It (removed) \_\_\_\_\_ carefully and (place) \_\_\_\_\_ in iron filings. It (attract) \_\_\_\_\_ the filings.

### B.2 Now read these instructions.

#### HOW TO DEMAGNETISE A SCREWDRIVER USING A COIL

1. Place the magnetised screwdriver blade inside the coil.
2. Pass an alternating current through it.
3. Slowly withdraw the screwdriver from the coil to a distance of about one metre while the current is flowing.
4. It becomes demagnetised.
5. Switch off the current.
6. Place the screwdriver in iron filings.
7. It does not attract the filings.





**MYSTERY FUEL**

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**C. Simple Past Passive**

**Think back to when you were a small child. For each year, from the ages of five to ten, write a sentence in the simple past passive.**

When I was five, I was called Bug Bunny by my sister.

When I was six, I wasn't allowed to.....

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Show your writing to your partner. Do you share any experience?

(Correct each other's work, as necessary).

**D. Modals with the Passive**

**Look at the picture below. At present this room is in a terrible state. Suggest what should be done to make it fit for a student to live and work in. Use different modals in the Passive voice, as in the example.**



The walls	should/ought to/must	be painted.
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## **F Future Passive**

**An architect is speaking at a special meeting of the Town Council. She is presenting her proposals for improving one area of the town.**

**Using the notes below, write down what she will say to the Town Council. You may start the report as given below.**

"Firstly, the polluted slum settlements will be cleared and replaced with low-cost housing..."

Now

slum settlement/ people

sleeping on streets

six cinemas/ no theatre

open sewers

only one old primary

school (overcrowded)

no parks or open spaces

Future

build low cost housing

turn one cinema into a theatre

cover sewers

setup/ establish two more

primary schools, and one

secondary school

create small parks between

low-cost housing blocks

## **G. Getting Something Done**

### **G.1 Study the examples below:**

**Examples:**

**1. a) Mr. Akshay Pandey's car was damaged in an accident.**

**b) A mechanic repaired the car.**

Usually in such situations, type 'b' sentences are rather uncommon. Instead, the same idea would be expressed as

*Mr. Pandey got his car repaired.*

This means that Mr. Pandey arranged for a mechanic to repair his car. He did not repair it himself. It can also be written thus:

*Mr. Pandey had his car repaired.*

**Use the words in brackets to complete the following sentences. Use the structure: 'have/get something done'.**

1. My neighbours \_\_\_\_\_  
(their garden/ relay) at the moment.
2. I lost my identity card. I'll have to \_\_\_\_\_  
another (another/ make)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (you/ milk/ deliver) to your house  
every day, or do you go out and buy it?
4. A: Can I see the photographs you took during our school day function?  
B: I'm afraid \_\_\_\_\_ (not/ the  
film/develop) yet.
5. Your suit is a little tight. Why don't you \_\_\_\_\_  
(a new one/ make)?

**G.2 Answer the following questions using 'to have something done'. The first one has been done as an example.**

1. Why did you go to the garage? To have my car serviced.
2. Why did you go to the doctor? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did you go to the bank? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you go to the tailor? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did you go to the photo studio? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did you go to the dentist's? \_\_\_\_\_

## H. Passive - Summary

**H.1 Match the items from A and B to make meaningful sentences. There is sometimes more than one sensible combination.**

A	B
1. Who will be	a. be informed
2. She likes	b. been done to stop it?
3. They ought	c. been told?
4. They are going	d. was given the money.
5. She	e. to get hurt.
6. It will	f. have been done by them.
7. You will	g. asked to come to the party?
8. He hates	h. being asked to parties.
9. What has	i. being looked at.
10. Has Sita	j. to be punished for what they did.

**H.2 Complete the following sentences appropriately by using the passive form of the given verbs.**

1. There's somebody behind us. I think we.....  
(follow)
2. A mystery is something that .....  
(cannot/explain)
3. We didn't play volleyball yesterday. The match.....  
(cancel)
4. The minaret ..... (restore). The work is almost finished.

5. Every time I travel by plane, my plane .....  
(delay)
6. I left some papers on the desk last night and I can't find them now.  
They ..... (might/ throw) away.
7. Two people ..... (report) to .....  
(injure) in an explosion at a factory in Bengaluru early this morning.

**H3. Rewrite the paragraph below by changing these sentences into the passive; include the agent only if necessary.**

Last year Mckiney Company built two new apartment buildings in the city centre. Recently one of the buildings was damaged by an earthquake. The earthquake also destroyed the company offices in the other building. The owners of the apartments of the buildings will receive the insurance money to fix the damages. Nobody will lose the money paid for the apartments.

Two new apartment \_\_\_\_\_.  
Recently one of the buildings was damaged by an earthquake. The company offices in \_\_\_\_\_.  
The insurance \_\_\_\_\_. Money \_\_\_\_\_.

**H.4 Look at the following newspaper article. It has two versions. Version 'A' is written in the active and version 'B' is written in the passive voice. For each piece of information, decide whether Version 'A' or Version 'B' is more appropriate. Then rewrite the passage using a combination of the two versions.**

**Version A**

Thieves stole the famous Nor Y Koh emerald from the City Museum last night. Police believe the thieves must have forced the locks on the windows and disabled the alarms before the museum attendants had closed the museum for the night. Police have arrested a man whom someone saw acting suspiciously outside the museum.

### Version B

The Famous Nor Y Koh emerald was stolen from the museum last night. It is believed that the window-locks had been forced and the alarms disabled before the museum was closed for the night. A man who was seen acting suspiciously outside the museum has been arrested.

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**H.5 Shahin, a newspaper reporter, visited the World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan. Suddenly he saw a stall in flames. He jotted down a few notes in his notepad. Using the cues and your own ideas, write a newspaper report in the space provided. Use Active or Passive, depending on what you wish to focus on.**

- Pragati Maidan
- 10 October
- 10 am
- Rendezvous Publishers
- over 2000 books published
- smoke and sudden flames
- injured - women 11
- - men 6
- - children 14
- people in ICU - 4
- fire fighters - no water available



## Integrated Grammar Practice

# 7

1. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines indicated. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided.

	Error	Correction
The Butterfly Effect is a metaphor who encapsulates	[a] _____	_____
a concept of sensitive dependence on initial	[b] _____	_____
conditions in chaos theory; naming that small	[c] _____	_____
different in the initial condition of a complex	[d] _____	_____
systems may produced large variations in the	[e] _____	_____
long termed behaviour of the system. A ball	[f] _____	_____
placed in the crest of a hill would roll into any of	[g] _____	_____
the several valleys depended on slight differences	[h] _____	_____
in the initial position.		

2. Read the following headlines and use the information to complete the following sentences.

**i. CHENNAI REGION TOPS AGAIN IN CBSE X**

The Chennai region \_\_\_\_\_ for the second consecutive year with 96.18 % of students clearing the CBSE exam in 2010.

**ii. HEATWAVE IN NORTH INDIA TO SUBSIDE NEXT WEEK**

The Indian Meteorological department formally announced \_\_\_\_\_.

**iii. HUTS DESTROYED IN FIRE**

About 100 huts near Vyasarpadi railway station \_\_\_\_\_ that broke out early on Friday.

**iv. EXPERT SEES TREMENDOUS SCOPE FOR LITERATURE GRADUATES**

Education Consultant Mr Jayan Gandhi's advice to media aspirants was \_\_\_\_\_.

**v. SEVEN KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT**

Twelve people were injured and \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Complete the advertisement for a five star hotel in Kolkata by writing suitable words and phrases in each space from the given options.**

At a time when hotels (a) \_\_\_\_\_ in character, the Hotel Park-View, Kolkata, strikes a distinctive note. Its five- star amenities, comfort and unique personalized service (b) \_\_\_\_\_. (c) \_\_\_\_\_, it has 80 rooms and 16 luxury suites. No holiday is complete unless (d) \_\_\_\_\_. Before this luxury hotel appeared on the Kolkata scene, (e) \_\_\_\_\_ an unfettered view of the famous Howrah Bridge.

(a) (i) are seeming to growing similar (ii) seem to be growing similar

- (iii) seem to be grow similar                      (iv) seemed to be growing similar
- (b) (i) made it the ideal hotel for tourists                      (ii) make it a ideal hotel for the tourist  
       (iii) make it an ideal hotel for tourists                      (iv) make it the ideal hotel for a tourist
- (c) (i) Located along Chowringee Lane, and facing the Hooghly  
       (ii) Located on a Chowringee Lane, and faced the Hooghly  
       (iii) Located by the Chowringee Lane, and it faced the Hooghly  
       (iv) It is located along Chowringee Lane, and is faced the Hooghly
- (d) (i) it included the stay at a Hotel Park-View  
       (ii) it includes a stay at the Hotel Park-View  
       (iii) it includes a stay at the Hotel Park-View  
       (iv) which include a stay at Hotel Park-View
- (e) (i) there was none which could offer                      (ii) there is none which can offer  
       (iii) there is none which could offered                      (iv) there was none which was offering

**4. Complete the following passage about Aung San Suu Kyi by filling up the blanks with suitable options.**

Aung San Suu Kyi (a) \_\_\_\_\_ a figurehead for Myanmar's struggle for democracy (b) \_\_\_\_\_ 1988. She was educated in Burma, India, and the United Kingdom, (c) \_\_\_\_\_ she got her PhD. In 1988 she returned home (d) \_\_\_\_\_ for her dying mother. Myanmar was in political chaos (e) \_\_\_\_\_ a new military junta took power. A nationwide uprising (f) \_\_\_\_\_ the Generals

started and Suu Kyi (g) \_\_\_\_\_ for freedom and democracy. Suu Kyi was kept (h) \_\_\_\_\_ house arrest for the best part of two decades till 13 November, 2010. She was awarded the Nobel Prize.

- (a) (i) has been      (ii) had been      (iii) was      (iv) is become
- (b) (i) from              (ii) since              (iii) between              (iv) in
- (c) (i) when              (ii) there              (iii) here              (iv) where
- (d) (i) caring              (ii) cared              (iii) to care              (iv) cares
- (e) (i) before              (ii) after              (iii) when              (iv) where
- (f) (i) opposed              (ii) opposite              (iii) against              (iv) again
- (g) (i) is campaigned (ii) campaigning (iii) campaigned (iv) was campaigning
- (h) (i) in              (ii) above              (iii) below              (iv) under

**5. Mohini met her friend Rajiv at the bus stand after a gap of five years. Later Mohini writes to her friend, Rekha about their conversation. Read the dialogue given below and complete the letter that follows.**

Mohini: Hello, Rajiv. I haven't seen you for ages.

Rajiv: I was in the United States for three years. I had gone there to do Masters in Business Administration. I just returned a week ago.

Mohini: Did you have a good time there?

Rajiv: Yes, I did. I finished my masters in two years and then I worked there for a year.

Mohini: Are you back for good?

Rajiv: No, I'm here for my brother's wedding. I'll be going back next week.

Dear Rekha,

You won't believe whom I met at the bus stand yesterday! Rajiv. I told him that it was nice to meet him as (a)..... He informed me that (b) ..... Masters in Business Administration. He returned a week ago after spending three years in the United States. I asked him (c) ..... and he told me that he did. When I asked him if he was back in India for good he said that he (d) ..... and that he would be going back the next week.

With love

Mohini

- 6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet as given below against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied.**

Children love picnics and outings of their parents e.g. of .... with  
though they are equally happier doing things with a) \_\_\_\_\_  
them around the house. A parent may make b) \_\_\_\_\_  
his child feels special by following some simple c) \_\_\_\_\_

rituals. Bedtime stories, the game of cards or  
simply talking and laugh together before going to  
bed gives children a wonderful sense  
of well-being. They hardly ever forgot these moments,  
and cherish them throughout these lives.

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

g) \_\_\_\_\_

h) \_\_\_\_\_