Passive Voice Examples in Texts and Proverbs

Texts

Text 1. How Towns Have Arisen
Most villages and towns on the British Isles came into being because of their favourable situation for trade.
Rather more than a hundred years ago, a great change came over the land. Many machines were invented about that time. Spinning and weaving, for example, which had previously been done by hand, were done by machinery that were driven by water or steam-power.
The work which usually was done in the houses of the people began to be carried on in large mills or factories, and workers found it convenient to live near them.
More and more factories were built and men and women left the country districts in great numbers and crowded into towns.
Since then the movement of people into towns has been going on until now. England is dotted with great cities.
All over Britain, and especially in those parts were the coal needed for power is to be found, there are mining and manufacturing areas, such as the Lancashire cotton district, the Black county of Midland, and others. A great many towns are found close together in those districts, and a great many people live within a small area, so that the population is very dense.

Text 2. The Titanic

The Titanic was built in 1912. It was designed in a new way and it was thought to be unsinkable. Because of this, it wasn’t given enough lifeboats for the passengers and crew. The hull was damaged by a collision with a huge iceberg and it sank very fast. A total of 1,513 people were drowned that day.
Because of this disaster, a lot of magazines were printed in many languages, new international safety laws were passed and ice Patrol was established. In 1985 the wreck was located on the sea bed and the ship was explored. Several successful films have been made about the Titanic since then, and the most recent was released in 1997.
Proverbs
Read these English proverbs. Observe how verbs are used in Passive Voice. Underline the passive voice verbals that are not underlined. In groups, explain the proverbs.

Present Tense Passive Voice

1. The road to hell is paved with good intentions.
2. A man is known by the company he keeps.
3. A fox is not taken twice in the same snare.
4. Old birds are not caught with chaff.
5. Never ask pardon before you are accused.
6. A liar is not believed when he tells the truth.
7. Advice when most needed is least heeded.
8. Forewarned is forearmed.
9. Marriages are made in heaven.
10. Danger foreseen is half avoided.
11. Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape.
12. What is done cannot be undone.

B. Past Tense Passive Voice

13. Rome was not built in a day.
14. Fingers were made before forks.
15. Acorns were good till bread was found.

C. Future Tense Passive Voice

16. The fish will soon be caught that nibbles at every bait.
17. Ask no questions and you will be told no lies.