

## Answer Key Exercise 12: Passive or active

1. The application of the Deauville scale was analyzed in a large cohort derived from three studies.  
*(Converted to the passive voice: often an appropriate choice for your methods section.)*
2. Treatment with a single tablet is as effective as a 7-day therapy with the cream.  
OR:  
A single tablet showed to be as effective as a 7-day therapy with the cream.  
OR:  
Jones et al. have shown that treatment with a single tablet is as effective as a 7-day therapy with the cream.  
*(Converted to the active voice: often a better choice if you want to emphasize the actor or the statement itself.)*
3. The scans were independently scored by three reviewers.  
*(Converted to the passive voice: the choice for active or passive here depends on the emphasis you want to put on the three reviewers. Also, in a case like this, the passive can be a good choice if the sentence that follows, tells more about the reviewers. In that case, the passive helps to maintain cohesion.)*
4. We developed our model to support the transformation of our care development system. *(Converted to the active voice. Absolutely a better choice if the 'we' indeed developed the model, which stays unclear in the passive version.)*
5. We / they evaluated the heading pad and found it worked properly.  
After evaluation the heading pad proved to work properly.  
*(Converted to the active voice. Both active and passive can be well chosen here, dependent on context and how much emphasis is needed on the subject (we or they) of the sentence. In the second rephrasing, noun style is used in stead of the passive in the first clause.)*
6. Despite efforts to promote patient safety, the occurrence of errors cannot be entirely prevented.  
*(Converted to the passive voice: probably the best choice here, as using the active voice puts stress on the actor (we) which may imply they still are to blame.)*
7. We / they acquired data using three different mass-spectrometry set-ups.  
*(Converted to the active voice. This is not always the best choice as the passive may be more efficient in the methods section. On the other hand, if the choice of set-ups was intentional and you go on to explain this choice, the active is preferable.)*
8. As an alternative method, a multicopy mean-field approach can also be used.  
*(Converted to the passive voice.. In scientific style, 'one' is not often used; the passive is preferable here).*