

Noticing Passive Voice and Modal Verbs Answers

Instructions: Read the following passages from the article "Sweet, Sour, and Resentful" and highlight all verbs in the passive voice and underline modal verbs.

Paragraph 5: The marathon started on Monday, with my mother planning the menu while letting us know that she **was** already **tired**. Fortunately, our rice dishes **were made** to be shared; our dilemma, however, was space. We eventually had to explain to our American neighbors why there **were** so many cars **parked** in front of our place every weekend.

Paragraph 6: Because my mother did not drive, my father took her to buy ingredients every Tuesday after work. In Abadan, my mother and I had started most days in the market, going from vendor to vendor looking for herbs, vegetables, and fruits. The fish came from the Karun and Arvand (Shatt al Arab) rivers, the lavash and the sangak breads **were** freshly **baked**, and the chickens were still alive... In America, I learned that the time my parents spent shopping was in direct correlation to the degree of my mother's bad mood. An extra-long trip meant that my mother could not find everything she needed, a point she would make loud and clear when she got home: "Why don't they let fruit ripen here?" "Why are the chickens so huge and flavorless?" "I couldn't find fresh herbs." "My feet hurt." "How **am I supposed to get** everything done?"

Paragraph 7: The first step was preparing the herbs. My mother insisted that the parsley, cilantro, and chives for qormeh sabzi, herb stew, had to be finely **chopped** by hand. As soon as the mountain of **herbs was chopped**, my mother started frying them. At any given time, my mother was also frying onions. Every few days, while my father was watching the six o'clock news, my mother would hand him a dozen onions, a cutting board, and a knife. No words **were exchanged**.

Paragraph 8: While all four burners were in use, my mother mixed the ground beef, rice, split peas, scallions, and herbs for stuffed grape leaves. I chopped the stems of the grape leaves. I had tried stuffing them once, but my rolls, deemed not tight enough, **were** promptly **unrolled** and then **rerolled** by my mother.

Paragraph 9: In between cooking, my mother made yogurt—the thick, sour variety that we couldn't find in America. She soaked walnuts and almonds in water to plump them up; fried eggplants for kashk-e bademjan, a popular appetizer with garlic, turmeric, mint, and whey; made torshi-e limo, a sour lemon condiment; and slivered orange peels. I **had been fired** from this task also, having left on far too much pith.

Paragraph 10: By the time our guests arrived, my mother **was exhausted**. But the work **was not finished**. Rice, the foundation of the Persian meal, the litmus test of the cook's ability, cannot be prepared ahead of time.

Paragraph 12: Our dinners took days to cook and disappeared in 20 minutes. As our guests heaped their plates and looked for a place to sit, they lavished praise on my mother, who, according to tradition, deflected it all. "It's nothing," she said. "I wish I could've done more."

Paragraph 13: On Sundays, my mother lay on the sofa, her swollen feet **elevated**, fielding thank-you phone calls from our guests. She had the same conversation a dozen times; each one ended with, "Of course you can give our name to your cousins." As I watched my mother experience the same draining routine week after week, I decided that tradition is good only if it brings joy to all **involved**. This includes the hostess. Sometimes, even our most cherished beliefs must evolve. Evolution, thy name is potluck.

Error Correction in the Use of Passive Voice and Modal Verbs

The following sentences contain errors in the use of passive verbs and modal verbs. Please find and correct these errors.

1. Fortunately, our rice dishes were made to be shared; our dilemma, however, was space. We eventually have-had to explain to our American neighbors why there were so many cars parked in front of our place every weekend. (2 errors)
2. The fish came from the Karun and Arvand (Shatt al Arab) rivers, the lavash and the sangak breads were freshly bakedd, and the chickens were still alive... (1 error)
3. An extra-long trip meant that my mother cannot-could not find everything she needed, a point she would make loud and clear when she got home: "My feet hurt." "How am I supposedd to get everything done?" (2 errors)
4. My mother insisted that the parsley, cilantro, and chives for qormeh sabzi, herb stew, have-had to be finely choppedped by hand. As soon as the mountain of herbs was choppedped, my mother started frying them. (3 errors)
5. While all four burners were in use, my mother mixed the ground beef, rice, split peas, scallions, and herbs for stuffed grape leaves. I chopped the stems of the grape leaves. I had tried stuffing them once, but my rolls, deemed not tight enough, were promptly unrolleded and then rerolled by my mother. (2 errors)
6. By the time our guests arrived, my mother was exhausted. But the work was not finished. Rice, the foundation of the Persian meal, the litmus test of the cook's ability, cannot be prepared ahead of time. (2 errors)
7. As our guests heaped their plates and looked for a place to sit, they lavished praise on my mother, who, according to tradition, deflected it all. "It's nothing," she said. "I wish I could be-have done more." (1 error)