1. The **passive** allows for foregrounding of non-AGENT thematic-roles into subject position. Compare for example the active sentence 1 below with the passive equivalent 2 (AG stands for agent; PA stands for patient):

1. Mary\textsubscript{AG} devoured the ice-cream\textsubscript{PA}.

2. The ice-cream\textsubscript{PA} was devoured by Mary\textsubscript{AG}.

Assume that 2 is formed from 1 by a simple rule: (a) place the non-AGENT argument at the beginning of the sentence; (b) change the active verb to a passive verb (e.g. *devoured* → *was devoured*); (c) place the word *by* in front of the AGENT and place the AGENT at the end of the sentence. Below are some active sentences with a non-subject argument underlined. For each one, use our simple rule and create a corresponding passive where the underlined non-AGENT argument becomes subject.

(a) The court fined Emma five hundred francs.
(b) Aliens abducted me in the middle of my examination.
(c) The professor mailed the answer to the student.
(d) The professor mailed the answer to the student.
(e) The professor mailed the student the answer.
(f) The professor mailed the student the answer.

Were any of the resulting passives ungrammatical? If so, what explanation can you give?

2. Exercise 7 on page 121 in Löbner’s *Understanding Semantics*.

3. Thematic roles are properties of predicates. For example, the verbal predicate *to kiss* obligatorily assigns two thematic roles, the AGENT role (“the kisser”) and the PATIENT role (“the kissee”) (cf. example (1) below). For each predicate in bold in the sentences below, say (i) how many thematic roles the predicate assigns, (ii) which thematic roles the predicate obligatorily assigns and (iii) which phrase receives which thematic role.

(1) John kissed Mary at the train station.
(2) Brenda reported the incident to her boss.
(3) Frogs fell from the sky.
(4) Our headquarters will remain in New York.
(5) Batman received a commendation from the mayor.
(6) Harvey noticed a strange smell.