



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B2 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 8 · 8A

Hacked!

Theme · Digital Lives



Unit 8 · 8A

Hacked!

Theme: *Digital Lives*



Learning objectives

- Use THE PASSIVE across all tenses (present, past, present perfect, future, modal) to shift focus from the doer to the action.
- Use HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE to talk about services performed by others (a laptop scanned, an account recovered).
- Use IT IS SAID THAT... / HE IS THOUGHT TO... to report information impersonally.
- Talk about the internet, cybercrime and account security with B2-level vocabulary.
- Pronounce the letter U in its three main sounds: /u/ (bug), /ju/ (user), /u/ (rule).
- React to a hacking story and give advice in natural spoken English.
- Write a short cyber-incident report using passive structures.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up · your digital footprint

Pick ONE prompt and answer for your partner in full sentences — 30 seconds each.

The password I've reused the most times is probably...

The most convincing scam message I've ever received said...

A friend or family member of mine who was hacked is...

One account I could NOT afford to lose is...

The last time I did a real security check on my accounts was...

followUp: Listen for anything that could be said with 'is hacked', 'was stolen', 'has been changed' — those are today's grammar.

Lead-in: active or passive?

Match each active sentence to its passive equivalent. Notice which one sounds more natural in a news headline or an official notice.

1. Hackers stole two million passwords last night.
2. Someone has changed the email on my Instagram account.
3. The bank will refund the money within five working days.
4. A technician is scanning my laptop right now.
5. They should update the software immediately.
6. Someone might have installed a virus on the machine.
- a) The money will be refunded within five working days.
- b) The software should be updated immediately.
- c) Two million passwords were stolen last night.
- d) A virus might have been installed on the machine.
- e) The email on my Instagram account has been changed.
- f) My laptop is being scanned right now.

1 → c · past simple passive (news style)

2 → e · present perfect passive (recent effect)

3 → a · future passive (official notice)

4 → f · present continuous passive (in progress)

5 → b · modal passive (recommendation)

6 → d · modal perfect passive (past possibility)

followUp: Rule of thumb: use the passive when WHO did it is unknown, obvious, or unimportant — that's why it dominates news and official writing.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Reading: the day my Instagram was taken over

It's now widely accepted that no online account is fully safe. Even so, when a message from what appeared to be the Instagram help team arrived in my inbox last spring, I clicked the link. I was told my account would be deleted within twenty-four hours unless I 'verified' my identity. I typed in my email and password. Within ninety seconds, I was locked out. My email had been changed. My phone number had been removed. Ten years of photographs, messages, and small businesses I had followed since school were, suddenly, no longer mine.

What I didn't understand at the time is that I had been phished. The link had taken me to a page that looked exactly like Instagram, but was in fact a copy hosted somewhere in Eastern Europe. As soon as my details were entered, they were captured and used to log in from another country. Two-factor authentication should have been set up years ago — but, like most people, I had put it off. It is thought that around sixty percent of adults still use the same three or four passwords across every account they own.

Recovery, I discovered, is slow. A short video selfie is required — that's how identity is now verified. It was uploaded to Meta the same afternoon, and I waited. Meanwhile, messages were being sent from my account to my followers, asking them to send crypto to a wallet. Several friends replied politely; two, embarrassingly, actually sent money. That money, of course, will never be seen again.

The account was recovered nine days later. I had it scanned by a professional first, in case anything else had been installed. What I learned, once the initial panic passed, is that this is happening to almost everybody. It's said that more than a million social-media accounts are compromised every single day. If you're reading this and you haven't turned on two-factor authentication yet, please close this tab and go and do it now. That single change is thought to block over ninety-nine percent of automated attacks. It's the cheapest insurance policy you'll ever buy.

1. How did the writer lose control of the account?
 - (A) Their password was guessed
 - (B) They clicked a fake 'verification' link
 - (C) Their phone was stolen
2. Where was the fake page hosted?
 - (A) The USA
 - (B) Eastern Europe
 - (C) The writer doesn't know exactly
3. According to the article, how is identity verified for recovery now?
 - (A) An email link
 - (B) A video selfie
 - (C) A phone call

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



4. What happened while the account was being recovered?
- (A) Nothing — the account was frozen
 - (B) Followers were messaged asking for crypto
 - (C) The hackers deleted all the photos
5. What is the writer's main practical advice?
- (A) Delete social media entirely
 - (B) Change every password once a month
 - (C) Turn on two-factor authentication

Cybersecurity vocabulary in context

Match each expression to its closest meaning.

phished — tricked into giving details on a fake site

locked out — unable to access one's own account

compromised — no longer secure — accessed by someone else

two-factor authentication (2FA) — a second code needed on top of a password

video selfie — a short face-video used to prove identity

wallet (crypto) — an online account holding cryptocurrency

Vocabulary: internet & cybersecurity

intro: At B2, upgrade 'someone stole my password' with the specific verbs and collocations native speakers use — the whole cybersecurity conversation runs on them.

1. **label:** Accounts & access

2. **label:** Cybercrime

3. **label:** Protection

4. **label:** Reactions & advice

practice

Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase from the box (correct form).

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. I clicked a link in a message and my details were ____ — a classic phishing attack.

2. I couldn't get in this morning — I've been ____ out of my own account.

3. The bank ____ my card as soon as it noticed the unusual payment.

4. You should turn on two-factor ____ on every important account.

5. Companies lose customer data all the time — a major ____ is reported almost every week.

6. Never use the same password twice. It has to be a ____ password, unique to that site.

7. The scam looks convincing — the email address is ____, but it's not quite right.

8. The payment will be ____ within five working days.

Practice 2 — collocations & rewrite

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined phrase with ONE word from this lesson's vocabulary. Keep the meaning identical.

1. Make sure your password is <u>strong and hard to guess</u>.

2. The company's systems were <u>accessed by an unauthorised person</u> last month.

3. The email looked <u>suspicious, as if it might be a scam</u>.

4. You'll need to <u>prove that you are who you say you are</u> before we proceed.

5. The bank promised to <u>give the money back</u> within a week.

Practice 3 — discursive writing

prompt: Discuss how growing cybercrime is changing the way we trust technology in everyday life.

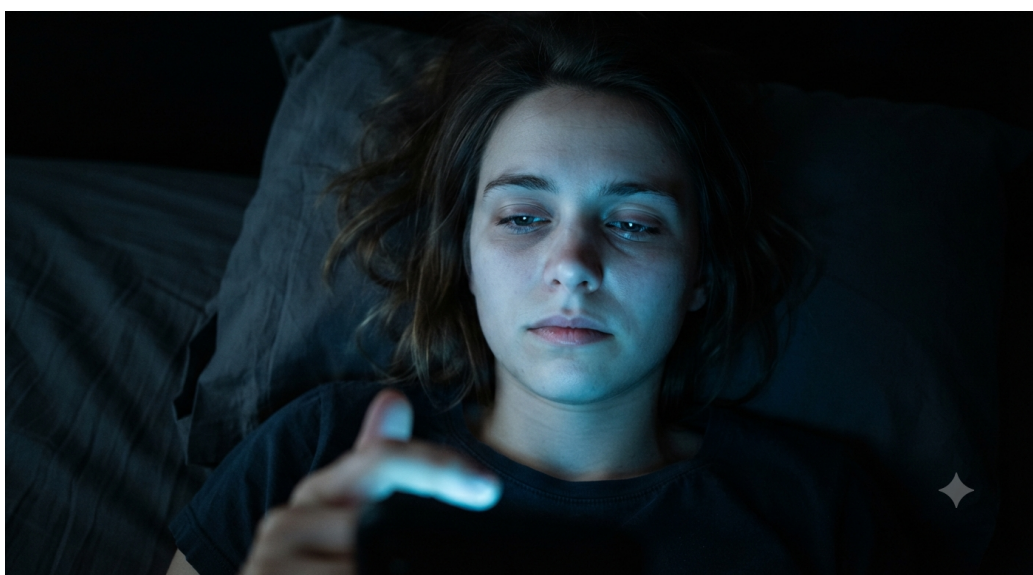
Use at least FOUR of the target words from this unit.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Vary sentence length and use one relative clause.

Aim for a reflective, cohesive C1 register.

sample: It is unsettling how quickly trust in technology, which most of us once assumed by default, has had to be replaced with constant suspicion. A message that looks even slightly dubious can no longer be opened without hesitation, and a robust password is now treated as a basic survival skill rather than an inconvenience. When an account is breached, the victim rarely feels reassured simply because a bank agrees to reimburse the loss; the deeper damage is the sense that nothing online is truly private any more. Increasingly, we are also asked to corroborate our identity again and again, through codes, selfies and secret questions, as if the system itself no longer believes we are who we claim to be. Whether this constant vigilance makes us safer or merely more anxious is, I think, still an open question.



Grammar: the passive & impersonal report structures

1. The passive — the basic move — ACTIVE: Someone / Hackers + verb + object. PASSIVE: Object + BE + past participle (+ by + doer). • Active: 'Hackers stole two million passwords.' • Passive: 'Two million passwords were stolen (by hackers).' Use it when WHO did it is unknown, obvious, unimportant, or when you want to focus on the RESULT.

2. The passive in every tense — Present simple: 'The account IS BLOCKED.' Present continuous: 'My laptop IS BEING SCANNED right now.' Present perfect: 'My email HAS BEEN CHANGED.' Past simple: 'My details WERE STOLEN yesterday.' Past continuous: 'Messages WERE BEING SENT from my account all night.' Past perfect: 'By 10am the account HAD BEEN DELETED.' Future: 'The money WILL BE REFUNDED within 5 days.' Modal: 'The software SHOULD BE UPDATED.' Modal perfect: 'A virus MIGHT HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.' Rule: only the form of BE changes; the past participle stays the same.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



3. HAVE / GET something DONE (causative) — Structure: subject + HAVE / GET + object + past participle. • 'I HAD my laptop SCANNED by a professional.' (I didn't do it myself — I paid someone.) • 'I need to GET my password RESET.' • 'She's HAVING her account RECOVERED at the moment.' Use it for services you arrange for someone else to do FOR you. ✗ 'I scanned my laptop' (I did it myself) — often not what you mean. ✓ 'I HAD my laptop scanned' (a technician did it for me).

4. IT IS SAID THAT... / HE IS THOUGHT TO... — Two impersonal report structures — very common in news and cautious writing. A) IT + BE + reporting verb (past participle) + THAT + clause: • 'IT IS SAID THAT a million accounts are compromised every day.' • 'IT IS THOUGHT THAT the hackers are based in Eastern Europe.' • 'IT IS BELIEVED / REPORTED / ESTIMATED / CLAIMED / RUMOURED THAT...' B) Subject + BE + reporting verb (past participle) + TO-INFINITIVE: • 'The hackers ARE THOUGHT TO BE based in Eastern Europe.' • 'Two-factor authentication IS SAID TO BLOCK 99% of attacks.' • Perfect: 'He IS BELIEVED TO HAVE STOLEN millions.' (about the past) Both patterns hide the source. Great for news, terrible for court testimony.

5. Common mistakes — ✗ My account was hack. → ✓ My account was HACKED. (past participle, not base form) ✗ It has stolen. → ✓ It HAS BEEN stolen. (need BE) ✗ I did my laptop scan. → ✓ I HAD my laptop scanned. (causative structure) ✗ Is said that hackers are Russian. → ✓ IT is said that hackers are Russian. (need dummy 'it') ✗ He is thought to be stolen the money. → ✓ He is thought TO HAVE STOLEN the money.

Exercise A — active → passive

Rewrite each sentence in the passive. Don't mention the doer unless it adds information.

1. Hackers stole two million passwords last month.

2. Somebody has changed my email address.

3. The bank is investigating the fraud right now.

4. They will refund the money within five working days.

5. You should update the software immediately.

6. Somebody might have installed a virus on the laptop.

7. The technician is scanning the laptop.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



8. By midnight, they had blocked all the cards.

Exercise B — HAVE something DONE

Rewrite each sentence with HAVE / GET + object + past participle.

1. A technician scanned my laptop yesterday.

2. A specialist recovered her Instagram account.

3. I need someone to reset my password.

4. The bank is sending me a new card at the moment.

5. An expert will check the security tomorrow.

6. Someone stole my identity — I didn't do anything wrong.

Exercise C — IT IS SAID THAT... / HE IS THOUGHT TO...

Choose the more natural completion.

1. ____ that a million accounts are hacked every day.

(A) Is said

(B) It is said

(C) They say it

2. The attackers ____ to be operating from Eastern Europe.

(A) are thought

(B) is thought

(C) are think

3. He is believed ____ over ten million pounds in the last year.

(A) to steal

(B) to have stolen

(C) to be stolen

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



4. Two-factor authentication ____ to block 99% of automated attacks.
- (A) is said
 - (B) says
 - (C) is saying
5. It is reported ____ the breach affected thirty thousand customers.
- (A) that
 - (B) for
 - (C) -
6. The group ____ to have hacked several government websites last year.
- (A) is thought
 - (B) are thought
 - (C) is thinking

Exercise D — a data-breach news bulletin

Complete the text using ONE form from the box (each used once).

Word bank: has been discovered · were stolen · is being investigated · will be contacted · should be changed · have their accounts · is said · is thought · have been installed · will be refunded

A major data breach at online retailer ShopHive (1) _____. The email addresses of about two million customers (2) _____, along with encrypted passwords and, in some cases, home addresses.

The incident (3) _____ by a specialist cybersecurity firm working with the police. All affected customers (4) _____ by email within the next 48 hours. If you have an account with ShopHive, your password (5) _____ immediately, and users are strongly advised to (6) _____ protected with two-factor authentication.

It (7) _____ that the same group is responsible for two similar attacks earlier this year. The attackers (8) _____ to be operating from outside the European Union. Investigators believe fake login pages (9) _____ on compromised advertising networks, capturing details when customers clicked what looked like normal ads.

Any customer who has already been charged fraudulently (10) _____ within ten working days, the company said in a statement.

has been discovered

were stolen

is being investigated

will be contacted

should be changed

have their accounts

is said

are thought

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



have been installed

will be refunded

Listening: 'my Instagram has been hacked'

Maya has just had her Instagram taken over. She rings her friend Ben, who's calmer and more tech-literate. Notice how many passives and 'have something done' constructions they use.

Before you listen

Predict: what one mistake did Maya most likely make?

Predict: what will Ben advise her to do FIRST?

First listen — gist

1. What has happened to Maya's account?

2. What was the trigger — how did the attackers get in?

3. What is Ben's very first practical question?

Second listen — detail

1. How is identity now verified when recovering an Instagram account?

2. According to Ben, how many accounts are compromised every day?

3. What is Maya's account being used for right now?

4. What should Maya do on her OTHER social accounts?

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



5. Why does Ben tell her to get her laptop checked?

6. Roughly how long does Ben say the recovery might take?

A: Ben, my Instagram has been hacked. It's been taken over completely.

B: Wait, what happened? When did you notice?

A: This morning. I couldn't log in, so I tried to reset the password — and my email had been changed too.

B: OK. Did you click on anything strange recently? A weird DM or a link?

A: Yesterday I got a message from what looked like the Instagram team, saying my account might be deleted. There was a link to 'verify' it. I clicked it, obviously.

B: That's a classic phishing link. Your login details were probably captured the moment you typed them in.

A: I feel so stupid. Ten years of photos, and now it's being used to send scam messages to my whole followers list.

B: Don't beat yourself up. It's said that about a million accounts are compromised every single day. You're not alone.

A: What do I do now?

B: First — have you got two-factor authentication set up on your email? Because if your email is protected, the account can still be recovered.

A: Yes, I did that last year. Thank God.

B: Good. Then go to Instagram's help centre, report the hack, and upload a video selfie. That's how identity is verified now. It's slow — it might take a week — but it does work.

A: And meanwhile? People are being messaged from my account right now.

B: Post a warning from your other social accounts. Tell people the account has been hacked and that any messages from it should be ignored.

A: OK. I'll do that. And Ben — I need to get my laptop checked as well, don't I?

B: Definitely. You should have it scanned by a professional. If anything's been installed on it, you don't want to type a new password on that machine.

A: Right. Coffee? I think I'm going to cry.

B: Coffee. Come on.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Speaking: 'the scam I almost fell for'

In pairs, tell a story about ONE scam, phishing message or hack (real or imagined). You MUST use: (a) 2× passive tenses, (b) 1× HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE, (c) 1× IT IS SAID THAT... or ... IS THOUGHT TO..., (d) 3 cybersecurity vocab words from section 4.

1. **label:** The message · **hint:** 'I was sent a message saying...'

2. **label:** The trap · **hint:** 'The link took me to...'

3. **label:** The moment of doubt · **hint:** 'Something didn't feel right — the URL wasn't quite...'

4. **label:** The fix · **hint:** 'I had my password reset / I got the account recovered...'

5. **label:** The takeaway · **hint:** 'It is said that...'

example: Last winter, I was sent a text saying that a parcel of mine was being held at customs and that a one-pound fee had to be paid. The message looked legitimate — the delivery company's logo was there, and my postcode had been guessed correctly. I clicked. The page asked for card details, and, foolishly, they were typed in. Within about ten minutes, three hundred pounds had been charged to my card from a website I had never heard of. The card was blocked immediately, and I got the money refunded within a week. I also had my phone checked by a colleague in IT, in case anything had been installed. It is said that these scam texts are sent to millions of people every week — and I now believe it. My rule now is simple: no link in any message about money is ever clicked. Ever.

challenge: ■ Extra ■ if you slip in a natural HAD MY ____ DONE AND an IT IS THOUGHT THAT clause.

Writing mini-task — 'a short incident report' (100–120 words)

Write a short internal incident report about a real or imagined hack (an account, a card, a company system). You MUST use: 3× passive tenses, 1× HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE, 1× IT IS SAID / THOUGHT THAT, and 3 cybersecurity vocab words from section 4. Underline every target structure.

Wrap-up · three quick prompts

Three quick prompts. Pick ONE and finish it out loud. Class votes on the sharpest verdict.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. **label:** Prompt 1 — the confession · **prompt:** The password I really should have changed years ago is...

2. **label:** Prompt 2 — the hindsight · **prompt:** If my main account were hacked tomorrow, the first thing I'd have done is...

3. **label:** Prompt 3 — the belief · **prompt:** It is said that the biggest cybersecurity risk is not technology but...

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Workbook — home practice



Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Hacked! - Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary - internet & cybersecurity

Choose the word or phrase that fits best.

1. A second code required alongside your password is called ____.
(A) encryption
(B) two-factor authentication
(C) a firewall
(D) a patch
2. Fake messages designed to steal your login details are called ____.
(A) encryption
(B) phishing
(C) malware
(D) backups
3. When a company's systems are broken into by attackers, this is called an ____.
(A) reset
(B) intrusion
(C) wallet
(D) swindle
4. Malicious software that spies on or damages your device is called ____.
(A) a firewall
(B) a patch
(C) malware
(D) encryption
5. Someone pretending to be you online is known as ____.
(A) a data breach
(B) identity theft
(C) encryption
(D) a scam
6. A fix released to close a security hole is called ____.
(A) a scam
(B) a patch
(C) a wallet
(D) a reset

2. Vocabulary - gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the box (correct form).

BOX: barred out · phished · breached · suspended · reimbursed · corroborate

1. I got a message from what looked like Instagram - I clicked the link and I was ____.
2. My password had been changed and I was completely ____ of my own account.
3. The bank automatically ____ my card as soon as it noticed the strange payment.
4. About a million social-media accounts are ____ every single day.

5. You now have to upload a video selfie to ___ your identity.
6. The nine hundred pounds will be ___ within five working days.

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Write 120-180 words: 'As our lives become increasingly digital, is it still possible to maintain complete personal privacy? Discuss the threats posed by cybercrime.'

Checklist:

- [] Use target lexis from the cybersecurity and internet sections
- [] Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. passive reporting structures)
- [] Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- [] Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar - active → passive

Rewrite each active sentence in the passive. Don't mention the doer unless it adds information.

1. Hackers stole two million passwords last month.
2. Somebody has changed the email on my account.
3. A technician is scanning my laptop at the moment.
4. The bank will refund the money within five days.
5. You should update the software immediately.
6. Somebody might have installed a virus on the machine.
7. By midnight, they had blocked all the cards.
8. The company is investigating the incident.

4. Grammar - HAVE / GET something DONE

Rewrite each situation using HAVE or GET + object + past participle.

1. A technician scanned my laptop yesterday.
2. A specialist recovered her Instagram account.
3. I need someone to reset my password.
4. The bank is sending me a new card at the moment.
5. An expert will check the security tomorrow.
6. Someone stole my identity - I didn't do anything wrong.

5. Grammar - IT IS SAID THAT... / ...IS THOUGHT TO...

Choose the correct impersonal report structure.

1. ____ that a million accounts are compromised every day.
(A) Is said
(B) It is said
(C) They say it
2. The attackers ____ to be based in Eastern Europe.
(A) are thought
(B) is thought
(C) are think
3. He is believed ____ over ten million pounds last year.
(A) to steal
(B) to have stolen
(C) to be stolen
4. Two-factor authentication ____ to block 99% of automated attacks.
(A) is said
(B) says
(C) is saying
5. It is reported ____ the breach affected 30,000 customers.
(A) that
(B) for
(C) -
6. The group ____ to have hacked several government sites last year.
(A) is thought
(B) are thought
(C) is thinking

6. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. My account was hack yesterday.
2. My email has stolen.
3. I did my laptop scan by a technician.
4. Is said that the attackers are Russian.
5. He is thought to be stolen the money.
6. The software should updated immediately.

7. Reading - true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In 2013, the American retailer Target announced that the credit-card details of around 40 million customers had been stolen during the busy shopping period before Christmas. The breach was traced to an unlikely source: not Target's own systems, but a small company that maintained the shop's air-conditioning units. Login details belonging to that company had been phished, and once the attackers were inside the supplier's network, they were able to move sideways into Target's payment systems. The full clean-up is estimated to have cost Target more than 200 million dollars, and the head of the company was replaced within months. It is now widely accepted that a company is only as secure as its weakest supplier.

1. About 40 million card details were stolen from Target. [T / F / NG]
2. The attackers broke into Target's own systems directly. [T / F / NG]
3. The initial victim was an air-conditioning maintenance supplier. [T / F / NG]
4. The clean-up cost Target more than a billion dollars. [T / F / NG]
5. The head of Target was arrested. [T / F / NG]
6. The article's main lesson is that supplier security matters. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing - a short incident report

Write 100-120 words as an internal incident report about a real or imagined hack. Use at least 3 passive tenses, 1 HAVE/GET SOMETHING DONE, and 1 IT IS SAID/THOUGHT THAT.

Checklist:

- [] 100-120 words
- [] 3+ passive tenses (present / past / perfect / modal)
- [] 1+ HAVE/GET something DONE
- [] 1+ IT IS SAID/THOUGHT THAT / ...IS THOUGHT TO
- [] 3+ cybersecurity vocab words

[illegible]

9. Listening - call to the bank fraud line

Listen to the phone call (a worried customer + a bank fraud officer - clearly different voices). Answer the questions. Play twice if you need.

Audio: Bank fraud-line call · ≈ 1:30

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. Dictation - key sentences

Listen again and complete each line with the missing words.

Audio: Bank fraud-line call - key sentences

1. A payment of nine hundred pounds ____ from my card.
2. The card ____ automatically.
3. That page was set up ____ your card details.
4. The payment ____ within five working days.
5. It ____ that these scam texts will continue for weeks.

11. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2-5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. Hackers have stolen my email address. → My email address _____. (KEYWORD: BEEN)
2. 2. A technician scanned my laptop. → I _____ scanned. (KEYWORD: HAD)
3. 3. People say the group operates from Russia. → The group _____ from Russia. (KEYWORD: SAID)
4. 4. Somebody might have installed a virus. → A virus _____ installed. (KEYWORD: BEEN)
5. 5. Experts believe he stole millions last year. → He _____ millions last year. (KEYWORD: THOUGHT)
6. 6. We need someone to reset the password. → We need to _____ reset. (KEYWORD: GET)

12. ■ Challenge - the letter U

Group the words by their U-sound. Choose the correct sound.

1. 'user'
(A) /u/ as in 'up'
(B) /ju/ as in 'you'
(C) /u/ as in 'too'
2. 'rule'
(A) /u/ as in 'up'
(B) /ju/ as in 'you'
(C) /u/ as in 'too'
3. 'update'

- (A) /u/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u/ as in 'too'

4. 'menu'

- (A) /u/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u/ as in 'too'

5. 'truth'

- (A) /u/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u/ as in 'too'

6. 'trust'

- (A) /u/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u/ as in 'too'

13. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- ☐ I form the passive across all main tenses (present, past, perfect, future, modal).
- ☐ I use HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE for services performed by others.
- ☐ I use IT IS SAID THAT... and SUBJECT + IS THOUGHT TO... to report impersonally.
- ☐ I know the past reference: IS BELIEVED TO HAVE + past participle.
- ☐ I use B2 cybersecurity vocabulary: phished, compromised, breach, 2FA, malware.
- ☐ I distinguish the three main U-sounds: /u/, /ju/, /u/.

Hacked! — Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary — internet & cybersecurity

Choose the word or phrase that fits best.

1. A second code required alongside your password is called ____.
(A) encryption
(B) two-factor authentication
(C) a firewall
(D) a patch
2. Fake messages designed to steal your login details are called ____.
(A) encryption
(B) phishing
(C) malware
(D) backups
3. When a company's systems are broken into by attackers, this is called an ____.
(A) reset
(B) intrusion
(C) wallet
(D) swindle
4. Malicious software that spies on or damages your device is called ____.
(A) a firewall
(B) a patch
(C) malware
(D) encryption
5. Someone pretending to be you online is known as ____.
(A) a data breach
(B) identity theft
(C) encryption
(D) a scam
6. A fix released to close a security hole is called ____.
(A) a scam
(B) a patch
(C) a wallet
(D) a reset

2. Vocabulary — gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the box (correct form).

BOX: barred out · phished · breached · suspended · reimbursed · corroborate

1. I got a message from what looked like Instagram — I clicked the link and I was ____.
2. My password had been changed and I was completely ____ of my own account.
3. The bank automatically ____ my card as soon as it noticed the strange payment.
4. About a million social-media accounts are ____ every single day.

5. You now have to upload a video selfie to ___ your identity.
6. The nine hundred pounds will be ___ within five working days.

2b. Vocabulary — discursive writing

Write 120–180 words: 'As our lives become increasingly digital, is it still possible to maintain complete personal privacy? Discuss the threats posed by cybercrime.'

Checklist:

- Use target lexis from the cybersecurity and internet sections
- Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. passive reporting structures)
- Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. On the left side, there are short vertical blue lines that serve as margins, creating a series of narrow columns. The paper is otherwise empty of any text or markings.

3. Grammar — active → passive

Rewrite each active sentence in the passive. Don't mention the doer unless it adds information.

1. Hackers stole two million passwords last month.
2. Somebody has changed the email on my account.
3. A technician is scanning my laptop at the moment.
4. The bank will refund the money within five days.
5. You should update the software immediately.
6. Somebody might have installed a virus on the machine.
7. By midnight, they had blocked all the cards.
8. The company is investigating the incident.

4. Grammar — HAVE / GET something DONE

Rewrite each situation using HAVE or GET + object + past participle.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

1. A technician scanned my laptop yesterday.
2. A specialist recovered her Instagram account.
3. I need someone to reset my password.
4. The bank is sending me a new card at the moment.
5. An expert will check the security tomorrow.
6. Someone stole my identity — I didn't do anything wrong.

5. Grammar — IT IS SAID THAT... / ...IS THOUGHT TO...

Choose the correct impersonal report structure.

1. ____ that a million accounts are compromised every day.
(A) Is said
(B) It is said
(C) They say it
2. The attackers ____ to be based in Eastern Europe.
(A) are thought
(B) is thought
(C) are think
3. He is believed ____ over ten million pounds last year.
(A) to steal
(B) to have stolen
(C) to be stolen
4. Two-factor authentication ____ to block 99% of automated attacks.
(A) is said
(B) says
(C) is saying
5. It is reported ____ the breach affected 30,000 customers.
(A) that
(B) for
(C) -
6. The group ____ to have hacked several government sites last year.
(A) is thought
(B) are thought
(C) is thinking

6. Grammar — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. My account was hack yesterday.
2. My email has stolen.
3. I did my laptop scan by a technician.
4. Is said that the attackers are Russian.
5. He is thought to be stolen the money.
6. The software should updated immediately.

9. Listening — call to the bank fraud line

Listen to the phone call (a worried customer + a bank fraud officer — clearly different voices). Answer the questions. Play twice if you need.

■ **Audio:** Bank fraud-line call · ≈ 1:30

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. Dictation — key sentences

Listen again and complete each line with the missing words.

■ **Audio:** Bank fraud-line call — key sentences

1. A payment of nine hundred pounds ____ from my card.
2. The card ____ automatically.
3. That page was set up ____ your card details.
4. The payment ____ within five working days.
5. It ____ that these scam texts will continue for weeks.

11. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2–5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. Hackers have stolen my email address. → My email address _____. (KEYWORD: BEEN)
2. 2. A technician scanned my laptop. → I _____ scanned. (KEYWORD: HAD)
3. 3. People say the group operates from Russia. → The group _____ from Russia. (KEYWORD: SAID)
4. 4. Somebody might have installed a virus. → A virus _____ installed. (KEYWORD: BEEN)
5. 5. Experts believe he stole millions last year. → He _____ millions last year. (KEYWORD: THOUGHT)
6. 6. We need someone to reset the password. → We need to _____ reset. (KEYWORD: GET)

12. ■ Challenge — the letter U

Group the words by their U-sound. Choose the correct sound.

1. 'user'
 - (A) /u/ as in 'up'
 - (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
 - (C) /u/ as in 'too'
2. 'rule'
 - (A) /u/ as in 'up'
 - (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
 - (C) /u/ as in 'too'
3. 'update'

- (A) /■/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju■/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u■/ as in 'too'

4. 'menu'

- (A) /■/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju■/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u■/ as in 'too'

5. 'truth'

- (A) /■/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju■/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u■/ as in 'too'

6. 'trust'

- (A) /■/ as in 'up'
- (B) /ju■/ as in 'you'
- (C) /u■/ as in 'too'

13. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- I form the passive across all main tenses (present, past, perfect, future, modal).
- I use HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE for services performed by others.
- I use IT IS SAID THAT... and SUBJECT + IS THOUGHT TO... to report impersonally.
- I know the past reference: IS BELIEVED TO HAVE + past participle.
- I use B2 cybersecurity vocabulary: phished, compromised, breach, 2FA, malware.
- I distinguish the three main U-sounds: /■/, /ju■/, /u■/.



Answer key — Class Book

Reading: the day my Instagram was taken over

1. (B) They clicked a fake 'verification' link
2. (B) Eastern Europe
3. (B) A video selfie
4. (B) Followers were messaged asking for crypto
5. (C) Turn on two-factor authentication

Vocabulary: internet & cybersecurity

1. harvested
 2. barred
 3. suspended
 4. authentication
 5. intrusion
 6. robust
 7. dubious
 8. reimbursed
1. Make sure your password is robust.
 2. The company's systems were breached last month.
 3. The email looked dubious.
 4. You'll need to corroborate your identity before we proceed.
 5. The bank promised to reimburse the payment within a week.

Grammar: the passive & impersonal report structures

1. Two million passwords were stolen last month.
 2. My email address has been changed.
 3. The fraud is being investigated (by the bank) right now.
 4. The money will be refunded within five working days.
 5. The software should be updated immediately.
 6. A virus might have been installed on the laptop.
 7. The laptop is being scanned (by the technician).
 8. By midnight, all the cards had been blocked.
1. I had my laptop scanned yesterday.
 2. She had her Instagram account recovered.
 3. I need to get my password reset.
 4. I'm having a new card sent (to me) at the moment.
 5. We'll have the security checked tomorrow.
 6. I had my identity stolen — I didn't do anything wrong.
1. (B) It is said
 2. (A) are thought
 3. (B) to have stolen
 4. (A) is said
 5. (A) that
 6. (A) is thought

Listening: 'my Instagram has been hacked'

1. It's been hacked — she's been locked out and the email has been changed.
 2. She clicked a phishing link in a fake 'Instagram team' message and typed her password on a copy of the login page.
 3. Whether she has two-factor authentication set up on her email.
1. A short video selfie has to be uploaded to Meta.
 2. About a million.
 3. Scam messages are being sent to her followers.
 4. Post a warning that the Instagram account has been hacked and any messages from it should be ignored.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



5. In case malware has been installed — she shouldn't type a new password on a compromised machine.
6. About a week.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Hacked! - Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary - internet & cybersecurity

1. **(B)** *two-factor authentication*
2. **(B)** *phishing*
3. **(B)** *intrusion*
4. **(C)** *malware*
5. **(B)** *identity theft*
6. **(B)** *a patch*

2. Vocabulary - gap-fill

1. *phished*
2. *barred out*
3. *suspended*
4. *breached*
5. *corroborate*
6. *reimbursed*

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Sample answer

In an era where every transaction is digital, the threat of a data breach is a constant concern. Many people have been phished by sophisticated scams, leading to identity theft and the loss of personal information. While companies deploy firewalls and encryption to protect their users, attackers are always searching for an intrusion point. Once an account is breached, the user may find themselves barred out, desperately trying to corroborate their identity with a bank that has suspended their card. Although victims are often reimbursed, the psychological impact of having one's digital life compromised is significant. We are told to update every patch and use two-factor authentication, yet malware continues to evolve. It is thought that no system is entirely foolproof, and as we navigate this landscape, we must weigh the convenience of connectivity against the risks. Ultimately, cybersecurity is no longer just a technical issue; it is a fundamental part of modern life that requires constant vigilance and education.

3. Grammar - active → passive

1. *Two million passwords were stolen last month.*
2. *The email on my account has been changed.*
3. *My laptop is being scanned at the moment.*
4. *The money will be refunded within five days.*
5. *The software should be updated immediately.*
6. *A virus might have been installed on the machine.*
7. *By midnight, all the cards had been blocked.*
8. *The incident is being investigated (by the company).*

4. Grammar - HAVE / GET something DONE

1. *I had my laptop scanned yesterday.*
2. *She had her Instagram account recovered.*
3. *I need to get my password reset.*
4. *I'm having a new card sent (to me) at the moment.*
5. *We'll have the security checked tomorrow.*
6. *I had my identity stolen - I didn't do anything wrong.*

5. Grammar - IT IS SAID THAT... / ...IS THOUGHT TO...

1. **(B)** *It is said*
2. **(A)** *are thought*
3. **(B)** *to have stolen*
4. **(A)** *is said*
5. **(A)** *that*
6. **(A)** *is thought*

6. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

1. *My account was HACKED yesterday.*
2. *My email HAS BEEN stolen.*
3. *I HAD my laptop SCANNED by a technician.*
4. *IT is said that the attackers are Russian.*
5. *He is thought TO HAVE STOLEN the money.*
6. *The software should BE updated immediately.*

7. Reading - true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **T**
4. **F**
5. **NG**
6. **T**

8. Writing - a short incident report

Sample answer

On the morning of the 14th of March, a suspicious login attempt was detected on the finance director's Microsoft 365 account from an IP address in Eastern Europe. The account was blocked automatically, and the password was reset within ten minutes. Access logs are being examined to check whether any documents were downloaded. The director's laptop is having a full antivirus scan carried out today, and a new device will be issued if any malware is found. It is thought that the login details had been captured through a phishing email received the previous week. All staff have been reminded that two-factor authentication must be enabled on every corporate account by the end of this week.

9. Listening - call to the bank fraud line

1. £900 (nine hundred pounds).
2. 'Global Digital Store' - a merchant he's never used.
3. He paid £1.20 on a link that claimed a parcel couldn't be delivered.
4. It's been blocked automatically.
5. Within five working days.
6. Having his phone checked for any apps that were installed after the link was clicked.
7. It is thought that scam texts will continue, so no link asking for a small payment should be clicked.

10. Dictation - key sentences

1. has been (taken)
2. has been (blocked)
3. to capture
4. will be (refunded)
5. is thought

11. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

1. has been stolen
2. had my laptop
3. is said to operate
4. might have been
5. is thought to have stolen
6. get the password

12. ■ Challenge - the letter U

1. (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
2. (C) /u/ as in 'too'
3. (A) /u/ as in 'up'
4. (B) /ju/ as in 'you'
5. (C) /u/ as in 'too'
6. (A) /u/ as in 'up'

13. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.

Hacked! — Workbook — Answer Key

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3. **(A)** / / as in 'up'
4. **(B)** /ju/ as in 'you'
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