

PASSIVE

1 Underline the correct words in this article.

A Race Against Time

Governments across Europe are already (1) *starting/being started* to worry. Why? Because low birth rates combined with longer life expectancy (2) *mean/are meant* that the Continent will soon have fewer people working and fewer people paying taxes. As a result, a whole range of measures must (3) *take/be taken* to deal with the problems that this change in demographics (4) *will bring/will be brought*.

At the recent Annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a session called 'Reforming Pension Systems' (5) *took place/was taken place*. The speaker, director of the population division of the United Nations, (6) *highlighted/was highlighted* that this is a global problem, not just a European one. However the facts cannot (7) *ignore/be ignored*: the situation in Europe is particularly serious. Look at the findings of a recent European Commission study: Italy's population (8) *expects/is expected* to drop from 58 million to 48 million by 2050, Spain's (9) *will fall/will be fallen* from 40 million to 35 million, and Germany's from 82 million to 76 million. Sweden is one of the few countries where the population will probably (10) *increase/be increased*.

And as the populations get smaller, they are also getting older. From 2007 onwards an enormous part of Europe's population (11) *will start/will be started* to retire. Solutions will have (12) *to find/to be found* to deal with the problems that this will (13) *create/be created*. Certainly governments must (14) *encourage/be encouraged* private pension plans, and old-fashioned tax and social security models must (15) *look at/be looked at* in a completely new way.

2 Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not mention who did the action.

1 They grow much less coffee in Colombia these days.

These days _____

2 Someone delivered this package this morning.

This package _____

3 The city council is redeveloping the old docklands area.

The old docklands area _____

4 They've put up interest rates again.

Interest rates _____

5 We'll discuss your idea in the meeting tomorrow.

Your idea _____

6 When is your date of birth?

When exactly _____ born?

7 Someone stole Peter's car last week.

_____ stolen last week.

8 Did anyone tell Alex about the meeting?

_____ about the meeting?