**Supplementary Information:**

**Appendix S1: Sample Instructional Material**

**Passive Voice**

The teacher starts by asking about several individual students’ health. She introduces some vocabulary related to health and asks students to contribute with the items related to health. This can be a spider diagram that you use for reviewing vocabulary related to health.

Surgery, doctor, surgeon, cancer, flu/cold, kidney etc…

While participants talk, the teacher distributes a handout with True/False statements about history of health practices and asks learners to work with their partner to try to answer “True or False” and give an explanation for why they think so for as many of the 13 statements as they can.

*1. Surgery was invented in the 1800’s.*

*2. The first X-rays were taken using radium.*

*3. Florence Nightingale introduced modern nursing methods*

*4. Vitamins were discovered in the early 1900’s.*

...

When the class has finished the T/F activity, the teachers writes the following **active** sentence on the board.

*“Researchers discovered vitamins 100 years ago.”*

And she asks learners:

*What is the verb? What is the subject of the sentence? What is the object? Who/What is the receiver of the action?*

Underlines the subject, verb and the object on the board. Tells them that this sentence is known as active and explain:

*The subject is responsible for the action of the verb.*

Teacher writes the following sentence on the board below the first one:

“*Vitamins were discovered by researchers 100 years ago.”*

Teacher asks:

*What is the difference? What is each sentence about?*

*Who does the action? Who/What receives the action?*

Elicits responses and then provides the following explanation, being sure to underline the parts of the sentence that you mention, e.g. the past participle, as she describes the verb construction of the passive sentence:

*The first sentence is about what researchers do. This sentence is in the active form. The second sentence is about vitamins. The second sentence is in the passive form. In the passive, the verb is made of two parts: the verb “to be”, in this case in the past tense, and the past participle of the verb, which never changes. In the passive sentence, the subject is the person or thing that received the action. It comes before the verb. The person or thing that did the action is called the “agent”.*