

Passive 1 (is done / was done)

A

Study this example:

This house **was built** in 1961.**Was built** is *passive*.

Compare active and passive:

Somebody **built** this house in 1961. (*active*)

subject object

This house **was built** in 1961. (*passive*)

subject

When we use an active verb, we say *what the subject does*:

- ☐ My grandfather was a builder. **He built** this house in 1961.
- ☐ It's a big company. **It employs** two hundred people.

When we use a passive verb, we say *what happens to the subject*:

- ☐ 'How old is this house?' **'It was built** in 1961.'
- ☐ **Two hundred people are employed** by the company.

B

When we use the passive, who or what causes the action is often unknown or unimportant:

- ☐ A lot of money **was stolen** in the robbery. (somebody stole it, but we don't know who)
- ☐ **Is this room cleaned** every day? (does somebody clean it? – it's not important who)

If we want to say who does or what causes the action, we use **by**:

- ☐ This house was built **by my grandfather**.
- ☐ Two hundred people are employed **by the company**.

C

The passive is **be (is/was etc.) + past participle (done/cleaned/seen etc.)**:

(be) done (be) cleaned (be) damaged (be) built (be) seen etc.

For irregular past participles (**done/seen/known** etc.), see **Appendix 1**.Study the active and passive forms of the *present simple* and *past simple*:*Present simple**active* **clean(s) / see(s)** etc.Somebody **cleans** this room every day.*passive* **am/is/are + cleaned/seen** etc.This room **is cleaned** every day.

- ☐ Many accidents **are caused** by careless driving.
- ☐ I'm **not invited** to parties very often.
- ☐ How **is** this word **pronounced**?

*Past simple**active* **cleaned/saw** etc.Somebody **cleaned** this room yesterday.*passive* **was/were + cleaned/seen** etc.This room **was cleaned** yesterday.

- ☐ We **were woken** up by a loud noise during the night.
- ☐ 'Did you go to the party?' 'No, I **wasn't invited**.'
- ☐ How much money **was stolen** in the robbery?

42.1

Complete the sentences using one of these verbs in the correct form, present or past:

cause	damage	hold	invite	make
overtake	show	surround	translate	write

- Many accidents are caused by dangerous driving.
- Cheese _____ from milk.
- The roof of the building _____ in a storm a few days ago.
- You _____ to the wedding. Why didn't you go?
- A cinema is a place where films _____.
- In the United States, elections for president _____ every four years.
- Originally the book _____ in Spanish, and a few years ago it _____ into English.
- Although we were driving fast, we _____ by a lot of other cars.
- You can't see the house from the road. It _____ by trees.

42.2

Write questions using the passive. Some are present and some are past.

- Ask about glass. (how / make?) How is glass made?
- Ask about television. (when / invent?) _____
- Ask about mountains. (how / form?) _____
- Ask about antibiotics. (when / discover?) _____
- Ask about silver. (what / use for?) _____

42.3

Put the verb into the correct form, present simple or past simple, active or passive.

- It's a big factory. Five hundred people are employed (employ) there.
- Did somebody clean (somebody / clean) this room yesterday?
- Water _____ (cover) most of the earth's surface.
- How much of the earth's surface _____ (cover) by water?
- The park gates _____ (lock) at 6.30 p.m. every evening.
- The letter _____ (send) a week ago and it (arrive) _____ yesterday.
- The boat hit a rock and _____ (sink) quickly. Fortunately everybody _____ (rescue).
- Robert's parents _____ (die) when he was very young. He and his sister _____ (bring up) by their grandparents.
- I was born in London, but I _____ (grow up) in Canada.
- While I was on holiday, my camera _____ (steal) from my hotel room.
- While I was on holiday, my camera _____ (disappear) from my hotel room.
- Why _____ (Sue / resign) from her job? Didn't she enjoy it?
- Why _____ (Ben / fire) from his job? Did he do something wrong?
- The company is not independent. It _____ (own) by a much larger company.
- I saw an accident last night. Somebody _____ (call) an ambulance but nobody _____ (injure), so the ambulance _____ (not / need).
- Where _____ (these pictures / take)? In London? _____ (you / take) them, or somebody else?
- Sometimes it's quite noisy living here, but it's not a problem for me – I _____ (not / bother) by it.

42.4

Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using **somebody, they, people** etc., write a passive sentence.

- Somebody cleans the room every day. The room is cleaned every day.
- They cancelled all flights because of fog. All _____
- People don't use this road much. I _____
- Somebody accused me of stealing money. How _____
- How do people learn languages? _____
- People warned us not to go out alone. _____

Passive 2 (be done / been done / being done)

A

Study the following active and passive forms:

*Infinitive**active* (to) **do/clean/see** etc.Somebody **will clean** this room later.*passive* (to) **be + done/cleaned/seen** etc.This room **will be cleaned** later.

- ☐ The situation is serious. Something must **be done** before it's too late.
- ☐ A mystery is something that can't **be explained**.
- ☐ The music was very loud and could **be heard** from a long way away.
- ☐ A new supermarket is going **to be built** next year.
- ☐ Please go away. I want **to be left** alone.

B

*Perfect infinitive**active* (to) **have + done/cleaned/seen** etc.Somebody **should have cleaned** the room.*passive* (to) **have been + done/cleaned/seen** etc.The room **should have been cleaned**.

- ☐ I should have received the letter by now. It might **have been sent** to the wrong address.
- ☐ If you had locked the car, it wouldn't **have been stolen**.
- ☐ There were some problems at first, but they seem **to have been solved**.

C

*Present perfect**active* **have/has + done** etc.The room looks nice. Somebody **has cleaned** it.*passive* **have/has been + done** etc.The room looks nice. It **has been cleaned**.

- ☐ Have you heard? The trip **has been cancelled**.
- ☐ **Have** you ever **been bitten** by a dog?
- ☐ 'Are you going to the party?' 'No, I **haven't been invited**.'

*Past perfect**active* **had + done** etc.The room looked nice. Somebody **had cleaned** it.*passive* **had been + done** etc.The room looked nice. It **had been cleaned**.

- ☐ The vegetables didn't taste very good. They **had been cooked** too long.
- ☐ The car was three years old, but **hadn't been used** very much.

D

*Present continuous**active* **am/is/are + (do)ing**Somebody **is cleaning** the room at the moment.*passive* **am/is/are + being (done)**The room **is being cleaned** at the moment.

- ☐ There's somebody walking behind us. I think we **are being followed**.
- ☐ (in a shop) 'Can I help you?' 'No, thanks. I'm **being served**.'

*Past continuous**active* **was/were + (do)ing**Somebody **was cleaning** the room when I arrived.*passive* **was/were + being (done)**The room **was being cleaned** when I arrived.

- ☐ There was somebody walking behind us. I think we **were being followed**.

43.1 What do these words mean? Use **it can ...** or **it can't ...**. Use a dictionary if necessary.

If something is

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 washable , <u>it can be washed</u> | 4 unusable , |
| 2 unbreakable , it | 5 invisible , |
| 3 edible , | 6 portable , |

43.2 Complete these sentences with the following verbs (in the correct form):

arrest carry cause ~~do~~ make repair ~~send~~ spend wake up

Sometimes you need **have** (**might have**, **should have** etc.).

- The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.
- I should have received the letter by now. It might have been sent to the wrong address.
- A decision will not until the next meeting.
- Do you think that more money should on education?
- This road is in very bad condition. It should a long time ago.
- The injured man couldn't walk and had to
- I told the hotel receptionist I wanted to at 6.30 the next morning.
- If you hadn't pushed the policeman, you wouldn't
- It's not certain how the fire started, but it might by an electrical fault.

43.3 Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using **somebody** or **they** etc., write a passive sentence.

- Somebody has cleaned the room.
The room has been cleaned.
- Somebody is using the computer right now.
The computer
- I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation.
I didn't realise that
- When we got to the stadium, we found that they had cancelled the game.
When we got to the stadium, we found that
- They are building a new ring road round the city.
.....
- They have built a new hospital near the airport.
.....

43.4 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Sometimes the verb is active, sometimes passive.

- There's somebody behind us. (I think / we / follow) I think we're being followed.
- This room looks different. (you / paint / the walls?) Have you painted the walls?
- My car has disappeared. (it / steal!) It
- My umbrella has disappeared. (somebody / take) Somebody
- Sam gets a higher salary now. (he / promote) He
- Ann can't use her office this week. (it / redecorate) It
- There was a problem with the photocopier yesterday, but now it's OK.
(it / work) It again. (it / repair) It
- When I went into the room, I saw that the table and chairs were not in the same place.
(the furniture / move) The
- A neighbour of mine disappeared six months ago. (he / not / see / since then)
He
- I wonder how Jane is these days. (I / not / see / for ages)
I
- A friend of mine was mugged on his way home a few nights ago. (you / ever / mug?)
.....

Passive 3

A

I was offered ... / we were given ... etc.Some verbs can have two objects. For example, **give**:

- ☐ Somebody gave **the police the information.** (= somebody gave the information to the police)
- object 1*
object 2

So it is possible to make two passive sentences:

- ☐ **The police** were given the information. *or*
The information was given to the police.

Other verbs which can have two objects are:

ask offer pay show teach tellWhen we use these verbs in the passive, most often we begin with the *person*:

- ☐ **I've been offered** the job, but I don't think I'll accept it. (= they have offered me the job)
- ☐ **You will be given** plenty of time to decide. (= we will give you plenty of time)
- ☐ I didn't see the original document but **I was shown** a copy. (= somebody showed me)
- ☐ Tim has an easy job – **he's paid** a lot of money to do very little. (= they pay him a lot)

B

I don't like being ...The passive of **doing/seeing** etc. is **being done / being seen** etc. Compare:

- active* I don't like **people telling me** what to do.
passive I don't like **being told** what to do.

- ☐ I remember **being taken** to the zoo when I was a child.
 (= I remember somebody taking me to the zoo)
- ☐ Steve hates **being kept** waiting. (= he hates people keeping him waiting)
- ☐ We managed to climb over the wall without **being seen**. (= without anybody seeing us)

C

I was born ...We say '**I was born ...**' (*not* I am born):

- ☐ I **was born** in Chicago.
☐ Where **were you born?** (*not* Where are you born?) } *past*

but

- ☐ How many babies **are born** every day? *present*

D

GetYou can use **get** instead of **be** in the passive:

- ☐ There **was** a fight at the party, but nobody **got hurt**. (= nobody **was** hurt)
- ☐ I don't **get invited** to many parties. (= I'm not invited)
- ☐ I'm surprised Liz **didn't get offered** the job. (= Liz **wasn't offered** the job)

We use **get** only when things *happen*. For example, you cannot use **get** in these sentences:

- ☐ Jessica **is liked** by everybody. (*not* gets liked – this is not a 'happening')
- ☐ Peter was a mystery man. Very little **was known** about him. (*not* got known)

We use **get** mainly in informal spoken English. You can use **be** in all situations.We also use **get** in the following expressions (which are not passive in meaning):

- get married, get divorced** **get dressed** (= put on your clothes)
get lost (= not know where you are) **get changed** (= change your clothes)

44.1

Write these sentences in another way, beginning in the way shown.

1 They didn't give me the information I needed.

I wasn't given the information I needed.

2 They asked me some difficult questions at the interview.

I

3 Amy's colleagues gave her a present when she retired.

Amy

4 Nobody told me about the meeting.

I wasn't

5 How much will they pay you for your work?

How much will you

6 I think they should have offered Tom the job.

I think Tom

7 Has anybody shown you what to do?

Have you

44.2

Complete the sentences using **being** + the following verbs (in the correct form):give invite ~~keep~~ knock down stick treat1 Steve hates being kept waiting.

2 We went to the party without

3 I like giving presents and I also like them.

4 It's a busy road and I don't like crossing it. I'm afraid of

5 I'm an adult. I don't like like a child.

6 You can't do anything about in a traffic jam.

44.3

When were they born? Choose five of these people and write a sentence for each.
(Two of them were born in the same year.)

Ludwig van Beethoven	Mahatma Gandhi	Elvis Presley	1452	1869	1935
Walt Disney	Michael Jackson	William Shakespeare	1564	1901	1958
Galileo	Martin Luther King	Leonardo da Vinci	1770	1929	

1 Walt Disney was born in 1901.

2

3

4

5

6

7 And you? I

44.4

Complete the sentences using **get/got** + the following verbs (in the correct form):ask damage ~~hurt~~ pay steal sting stop use1 There was a fight at the party, but nobody got hurt.

2 Alex by a bee while he was sitting in the garden.

3 These tennis courts don't very often. Not many people want to play.

4 I used to have a bicycle, but it a few months ago.

5 Rachel works hard but doesn't very much.

6 Last night I by the police as I was driving home. One of the lights on my car wasn't working.

7 Please pack these things very carefully. I don't want them to

8 People often want to know what my job is. I that question a lot.

It is said that ... He is said to ... He is supposed to ...

A

Study this example situation:



George is very old. Nobody knows exactly how old he is, but:

It is said that he is 108 years old.or **He is said to be** 108 years old.

Both these sentences mean: 'People say that he is 108 years old.'

You can use these structures with a number of other verbs, especially:

alleged believed considered expected known reported thought understood

Compare the two structures:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathy loves running.
It is said that she runs ten miles a day. | or She is said to run ten miles a day. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The police are looking for a missing boy.
It is believed that the boy is wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. | or The boy is believed to be wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The strike started three weeks ago.
It is expected that the strike will end soon. | or The strike is expected to end soon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friend of mine has been arrested.
It is alleged that he hit a policeman. | or He is alleged to have hit a policeman. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The two houses belong to the same family.
It is said that there is a secret tunnel between them. | or There is said to be a secret tunnel between them. |

These structures are often used in news reports. For example, in a report about an accident:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is reported that two people were injured in the explosion. | or Two people are reported to have been injured in the explosion. |
|---|--|

B

(Be) supposed toSometimes **(it is) supposed to ...** = (it is) said to ... :

- ☐ I want to see that film. **It's supposed to be** good. (= it is said to be good)
- ☐ Fireworks **are supposed to have been invented** in China. Is it true?

But sometimes **supposed to** has a different meaning. We use **supposed to** to say what is intended, arranged or expected. Often this is different from the real situation:

- ☐ The plan **is supposed to be** a secret, but everybody seems to know about it.
(= the plan is intended to be a secret)
- ☐ What are you doing at work? You're **supposed to be** on holiday.
(= you arranged to be on holiday)
- ☐ Our guests **were supposed to come** at 7.30, but they were late.
- ☐ Jane **was supposed to phone** me last night, but she didn't.
- ☐ I'd better hurry. I'm **supposed to be meeting** Chris in ten minutes.

You're **not supposed to** do something = it is not allowed or advisable:

- ☐ You're **not supposed to park** your car here. It's private parking only.
- ☐ Jeff is much better after his illness, but he's still **not supposed to do** any heavy work.

Exercises

Unit
45

45.1

Write these sentences in another way, beginning as shown. Use the underlined word each time.

- 1 It is expected that the strike will end soon. The strike is expected to end soon.
- 2 It is expected that the weather will be good tomorrow.
The weather is
- 3 It is believed that the thieves got in through a window in the roof.
The thieves
- 4 It is reported that many people are homeless after the floods.
Many people
- 5 It is thought that the prisoner escaped by climbing over a wall.
The prisoner
- 6 It is alleged that the man was driving at 110 miles an hour.
The man
- 7 It is reported that the building has been badly damaged by the fire.
The building
- 8 a It is said that the company is losing a lot of money.
The company
- b It is believed that the company lost a lot of money last year.
The company
- c It is expected that the company will make a loss this year.
The company

45.2

There are a lot of rumours about Alan. Here are some of the things people say about him:

- 1 Alan speaks ten languages.
- 2 He knows a lot of famous people.
- 3 He is very rich.
- 4 He has twelve children.
- 5 He was an actor when he was younger.



Nobody is sure whether these things are true. Write sentences about Alan using *supposed to*.

- 1 Alan is supposed to speak ten languages.
- 2 He
- 3
- 4
- 5

45.3

Complete the sentences using **supposed to be** + the following:

on a diet a flower my friend a joke ~~a secret~~ working

- 1 How is it that everybody seems to know about the plan? It is supposed to be a secret.
- 2 You shouldn't criticise me all the time. You
- 3 I shouldn't be eating this cake really. I
- 4 I'm sorry for what I said. I was trying to be funny. It
- 5 What's this drawing? Is it a tree? Or maybe it
- 6 You shouldn't be reading the paper now. You

45.4

Write sentences with **supposed to** + the following verbs:

block depart ~~park~~ phone start

Use the negative (**not supposed to**) where necessary.

- 1 You 're not supposed to park here. It's private parking only.
- 2 We work at 8.15, but we rarely do anything before 8.30.
- 3 Oh, I Helen last night, but I completely forgot.
- 4 This door is a fire exit. You it.
- 5 My flight at 11.30, but it was an hour late.