



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



The passive is formed by using the appropriate tense of the verb **to be** + **past participle**.

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present Simple	They repair cars.	Cars are repaired .
Present Continuous	They are repairing the car.	The car is being repaired .
Past Simple	They repaired the car.	The car was repaired .
Past Continuous	They were repairing the car.	The car was being repaired .
Future Simple	They will repair the car.	The car will be repaired .
Present Perfect	They have repaired the car.	The car has been repaired .
Past Perfect	They had repaired the car.	The car had been repaired .
Future Perfect	They will have repaired the car.	The car will have been repaired .
Present Infinitive	They will have to repair the car.	The car will have to be repaired .
Perfect Infinitive	She ought to have repaired the car.	The car ought to have been repaired .
-ing form	He likes people admiring his new car.	He likes his new car being admired .
Perfect -ing form	Having repaired the car, ...	The car, having been repaired , ...
Modals	You must repair this car.	This car must be repaired .

The passive is used:

- when the agent (the person who does the action) is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.
 - My car **was stolen** yesterday. (unknown agent)
 - The road repairs **were completed** last week. (unimportant agent)
 - The kidnappers **have been arrested**. (by the police – obvious agent)
- to make statements more polite or formal.
 - My new suit **has been burnt**. (It's more polite than saying "You've burnt my new suit.")
- when the action is more important than the agent – as in news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements, etc.
 - Taking pictures **is not allowed**. (written notice)
 - The local bank **was robbed** this morning. (news report)
 - Bread **is baked** in an oven for about 45 minutes. (process)
- to put emphasis on the agent.
 - The Tower of London **was built** by **William the Conqueror**.

6

The Passive

1 Fill in: *is / are, was / were, have / has been.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Sally told me her wedding dress <i>was</i> designed by Vera Wang. | 5 Coffee grown in Brazil. |
| 2 Before the clothes shop closed, eighty people employed there. | 6 Documentaries on marine life shown on TV for many years. |
| 3 On the first day of our holiday, we taken on a wonderful tour of the city by our guide. | 7 <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Macbeth</i> written by William Shakespeare. |
| 4 Jeans worn by both men and women nowadays. | 8 The injured man taken to hospital half an hour ago. |
| | 9 Jenny is excited because she offered a new job. |

Note: We can use the verb **to get** instead of the verb **to be** in everyday speech when we talk about things that happen by accident or unexpectedly.
Sam got hit by a cyclist as he was crossing the road.

2 Complete the sentences using *get* and the following verbs in the correct form.

sting damage steal hurt invite hit

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Olga .. <i>got stung</i> .. by a bee while she was sitting in the garden. | 4 Mary is very popular. She often to parties. |
| 2 As he was walking through the park, Tom by a baseball. | 5 There was a fire in my apartment block but luckily no one |
| 3 Please be careful with those boxes. I don't want anything to | 6 While travelling, you must always watch your bags or they might |

3 Rewrite the newspaper headlines as complete sentences.

1 **RARE BIRD FOUND IN REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE**
 1 *A rare bird has been found in the remote countryside.*

2 **NEW JERSEY TO BE HIT BY BAD WEATHER TOMORROW**
 2

3 **EXPERIMENTS BEING CARRIED OUT ON MOON ROCKS**
 3

4 **Queen WELCOMED TO AUSTRALIA YESTERDAY**
 4

5 **FIVE PEOPLE INJURED IN CAR ACCIDENT**
 5

6 **LAST NIGHT'S POP CONCERT CALLED OFF BECAUSE OF RAIN**
 6

4 Fill in the *passive* in the appropriate tense, then justify its use.

- unimportant / obvious agent
- ~~polite statement~~
- emphasis on the agent
- action more important than the agent
- process
- news report

1 *polite statement*



(the animals / shouldn't / feed)

..... *The animals*
 *shouldn't be fed.*

2



(*Oliver Twist* / write / Charles Dickens)

.....

3



(just / tell / the bad news)

.....

4



(dinner / serve)

.....

5



(the building / destroy / fire)

.....

6



(cheese / make / from milk)

.....

5 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *passive* form.

A NEW STAR

Harry Potter is a popular film series based on the fantasy novels that 1) *...were written...* (**write**) by J.K. Rowling. It's about a young orphan boy who goes to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to learn how to become a proper wizard. At Hogwarts, Potter discovers that when he was a baby, he 2) (**attack**) by the dark wizard Lord Voldemort, who had also killed his parents.

The main character in the films, Harry Potter, 3) (**play**) by the actor Daniel Radcliffe. Daniel Radcliffe 4) (**be/born**) in 1989. He 5) (**choose**) to play the leading role when he was just 11.

Today, Daniel Radcliffe is one of the most recognised faces in the world. The series has brought him great wealth, too! In 2009, he 6) (**rank**) the 12th richest young person in the UK.

6 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct passive tense.

- 1 A: Are you going to the concert tomorrow?
B: No, I'm not. It ... *has been cancelled* ...
(cancel) because of the bad weather.
- 2 A: Did you receive my parcel?
B: No, it (not/deliver) yet.
- 3 A: Will there be any prizes?
B: Yes. Medals (give)
to the winners.
- 4 A: Can I expect to get to England on time?
B: Sorry Madam, but all flights
..... (delay).
- 5 A: Is there anything I can do for you, sir?
B: Yes, these faxes
(should/send) right away.
- 6 A: Did you hear about the missing girl?
B: Yes. Luckily, she (find)
at the train station.
- 7 A: The hotel is in terrible condition.
B: Yes. It
(should/repair).
- 8 A: Do you have any plans for this evening?
B: I'm going to an art exhibition which
..... (hold) at the museum.
- 9 A: Should I leave a tip?
B: You don't have to. The service
(include) in the bill.
- 10 A: Is your new house ready to move into?
B: No. The walls
(not/paint) yet.
- 11 A: Did you go to Lisa's party?
B: No. I (not/invite).
- 12 A: Have they caught the bank robbers yet?
B: Unfortunately, no arrests
..... (make).

Changing from active into passive

- The **object** of the active verb becomes the **subject** in the new sentence. The active verb changes into a

	Subject	Verb	Object	Agent
active	Bell	<i>invented</i>	<i>the telephone.</i>	
passive	<i>The telephone</i>	<i>was invented</i>		<i>by Bell.</i>

passive form and the subject of the active verb becomes the agent. The agent (= person who does the action) is introduced with 'by' or is omitted.

- We use **by + agent** to say who or what did the action. We use **with + instrument, material or ingredient** to say what instrument or material the agent used.
A kite was made by Tim. (Tim did the action.)
Mr Smith was hit by Billy with a ball. (The ball is the instrument the agent used.)
The cake was made with flour, sugar and eggs. (Flour, sugar and eggs are the ingredients the agent used.)
- We put the agent (= person who performs the action) into the passive when it is a specific or an important person or when it is essential to the meaning of the sentence. When the agent is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context, it is omitted. Agents such as **someone, people, I, you, etc.** are omitted.
Macbeth was written by Shakespeare. (The agent is not omitted; it is essential to the meaning of the sentence.)
Somebody took my pen. → *My pen was taken (by somebody).* (unknown agent; it is omitted.)
- After modal verbs (**will, can, may, etc.**) we use **be + past participle** or **have been + past participle**.
They may close down the theatre. → *The theatre may be closed down.*
They may have reported the bank robbery. → *The bank robbery may have been reported.*
- With verbs that take two objects it is more usual to begin the passive sentence with the person.
They sent a letter to him. → *He was sent a letter.* (more usual) / *A letter was sent to him.* (less usual)