

Passive

- 1 Managers at the store called the police to control the crowd.
- 2 Riot police were called to control a group of angry tourists.

Structure

be/get + Past Participle

be done

get done

Transform the sentences from Active to Passive:

Present Simple	They made most of their clothes in India.	
Past Simple	Somebody stole my bag when I went shopping.	
Present Perfect	My friend's asked me to help organise.	
Future Simple	They will deliver the washing machine on Friday.	
Modals	The bookshops should stop selling pirate DVDs.	

Transform the sentences from Active to Passive:

Present Simple	They made most of their clothes in India.	Most of their clothes are made in India.
Past Simple	Somebody stole my bag when I went shopping.	My bag was stolen when I went shopping.
Present Perfect	My friend's asked me to help organise.	I've been asked to help organise.
Future Simple	They will deliver the washing machine on Friday.	The washing machine will be delivered on Friday.
Modals	The bookshops should stop selling pirate DVDs.	Selling pirate DVDs should be stopped.

Adverbs

Adverbs usually go between be and past
Participle:

I was not **badly** hurt when I fell –
only few cuts.

Use

We usually use the passive:

- 1 when we don't know who or what did / does the action we want to talk about
- 2 when it's simply not important who did / does the action.

We sometimes include the doer of the action in passive sentences with *by* after the verb.

Her wedding dress *was designed by* John Paul Gaultier.
We're *encouraged by* our teacher to read in English.

Don't forget about prepositions!

They sent for a doctor. –

The doctor was sent for.

Irregular verbs

Exercise 1

Write the past participles of the verbs below.

blow ...	hit ...	sell ...
break ...	keep ...	show ...
bring ...	leave ...	steal ...
build ...	lend ...	take ...
buy ...	pay ...	teach ...
catch ...	put ...	throw ...
find ...	run ...	wake ...
gave ...	see ...	write ...

More Practice

Exercise 2

Rewrite each sentences using a passive. The first one is done for you.

- 1 They told me I couldn't take my bag into the shop.
I was told I couldn't take my bag into the shop.
- 2 They caught him stealing some perfume.
- 3 They send me junk emails all the time.
- 4 They knocked down the building over two years ago.
- 5 They usually make it with lamb, but you can use beef.
- 6 They broke into my house last night.
- 7 They introduced a new tax on luxury goods last year.
- 8 They've built a huge shopping centre nearby.

C Choose the correct forms in this article.

Primark ¹*sells / is sold* fashion items very cheaply and, as a result, has become a hugely successful company. It ²*established / was established* in Ireland in 1969 under the name of Penny's and now the company ³*operates / is operated* 170 stores in the UK as well as in Europe. Most of Primark's clothes ⁴*supplied / are supplied* by factories in countries such as Bangladesh and Indonesia. In 2008, a report ⁵*discovered / was discovered* that some factory workers ⁶*paid / were paid* just 8 cents an hour. It also found that sometimes children ⁷*used / were used* to make the clothes. Afterwards, Primark stopped using the suppliers employing children and better inspections ⁸*introduced / were introduced*.

Primark was not the only low-cost chain which ⁹*accused / was accused* of exploitation in the report. The company says it pays the same as most of its competitors, but it ¹⁰*charges / is charged* its customer less.

A In pairs, explain the following headlines. Discuss what you think each story is probably about.

1

MAN ARRESTED AFTER STEALING 10 KILOS OF BANANAS

2

**SHOP PAYS \$20,000 TO WOMAN
INJURED IN CHANGING ROOMS**

3

**WOMAN FINED AFTER CALLING AMBULANCE TO
HELP HER HOME WITH SHOPPING**

B Choose one of the headlines and write a short news report of 60–80 words about it.