

# *Passive Voice*



# Reasons for using the Passive

We often use the passive when we want to talk about an action rather than the person or thing that does the action. We do this when

- it doesn't matter who does the action:

*The votes **will be counted** at the end of the meeting.*

***Have the parcels been delivered?***

- we know or can guess who does the action:

*Here's your skirt. It's **been dry-cleaned**. (obviously by the dry cleaner's)*

*I brought my car to your garage yesterday. **Has it been repaired** yet? (by the garage)*

- we don't know, or we don't want to say who does the action:

*My bicycle **has been stolen!** (I don't know who stole it.)*

*I see the washing-up **hasn't been done** again! (I don't want to say who hasn't done it.)*

- we want to talk about general feelings or beliefs

*The building **is believed** to date from the thirteenth century. (Most people believe this.)*

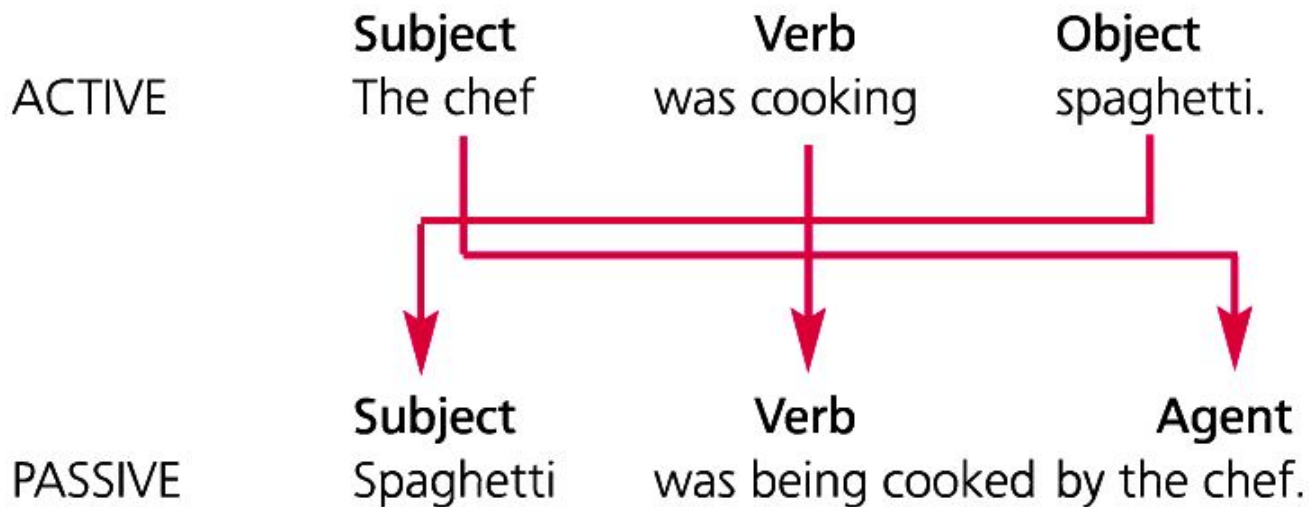
- we want to be polite or we are in a formal situation:

***Have the reports been typed** yet? (more polite than *Have you typed the reports yet?*)*

*Your application **will be assessed** by the manager. (more formal than *The manager will assess your application.*)*

## Changing from the active to the passive:

- the **object** of the active sentence becomes the **subject** in the passive sentence
- the active verb remains in the same tense but changes into a passive form
- the **subject** of the active sentence becomes the **agent**, and is either introduced with the preposition **by** or is omitted.



## *The Passive Voice*

**to be** (в нужной форме) + **V<sub>3</sub>**

Grammar Tense		Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple	Present	<b>V (s)</b>	<b>am, is, are + V<sub>3</sub></b>
	Past	<b>V<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>was, were + V<sub>3</sub></b>
	Future	<b>will V</b>	<b>will be + V<sub>3</sub></b>
Continuous	Present	<b>am, is, are + Ving</b>	<b>am, is, are being + V<sub>3</sub></b>
	Past	<b>was, were Ving</b>	<b>was, were being + V<sub>3</sub></b>
	Future	<b>will be Ving</b>	Не употребляется
Perfect	Present	<b>have, has V<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>have, has been + V<sub>3</sub></b>
	Past	<b>had V<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>had been + V<sub>3</sub></b>
	Future	<b>will have V<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>will have been + V<sub>3</sub></b>

## The Passive Form of Modals and Phrasal Modals

**Passive form:**            **modal\*** + **be** + **past participle**

(a) Tom	<i>will</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>invited</i>	to the picnic.
(b) The window	<i>can't</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>opened.</i>	
(c) Children	<i>should</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>taught</i>	to respect their elders.
(d)	<i>May I</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>excused</i>	from class?
(e) This book	<i>had better</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>returned</i>	to the library before Friday.
(f) This letter	<i>ought to</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>sent</i>	before June 1st.
(g) Mary	<i>has to</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>told</i>	about our change in plans.
(h) Fred	<i>is supposed to</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>told</i>	about the meeting.

**Past-passive form:**    **modal** + **have been** + **past participle**

(i) The letter	<i>should</i>	<i>have been</i>	<i>sent</i>	last week.
(j) This house	<i>must</i>	<i>have been</i>	<i>built</i>	over 200 years ago.
(k) Eric	<i>couldn't</i>	<i>have been</i>	<i>offered</i>	the job.
(l) Jill	<i>ought to</i>	<i>have been</i>	<i>invited</i>	to the party.

**Вопросительная форма** *образуется путём переноса (первого) вспомогательного глагола на место перед подлежащим, например:*

**When was the work done?**

**Has the work been done?**

**Отрицательная форма** *образуется с помощью отрицания not, которое ставится после первого вспомогательного глагола, например: |*

**The work was not done last week.**

**The work will not done tomorrow.**

Если в оборотах со страдательным залогом указан **производитель действия**, то в русском языке он обозначается творительным падежом, а в английском ему предшествует предлог **by**.

*The salad was made **by** Ann.*

Дополнение с предлогом **with** выражает **орудие действия**:

*The tomatoes were cut **with** a sharp knife.*

**При переводе страдательного залога на русский язык возможны следующие варианты:**

1. *Краткая форма причастий страдательного залога*

I am invited to a party.

Я приглашён на вечеринку.

2. *Глаголы, оканчивающие на -ся-*

All observations were made by a team of famous scientists.

Все наблюдения проводились группой знаменитых учёных.

3. *Неопределённо-личные предложения ( этот способ перевода применим лишь в тех случаях, если производитель действия в английском страдательном залоге не упомянут).*

We were asked to come as early as possible.

Нас попросили прийти как можно раньше.



## Verbs with two objects

With these verbs, e.g. *give, offer, buy, tell, read*, there are two ways of forming the passive.

- The 'person' object becomes the subject of the passive verb:

subject		object	
Amanda	was given	first prize	(by the judges).
Sylvia	is going to be offered	a new job	(by her boss).
The children	were bought	a new kitten	(by their aunt).

- The 'thing' object becomes the subject of the passive verb, and we put *to* or *for* in front of the 'person' object:

First prize	was given to	Amanda	(by the judges).
A new job	is going to be offered to	Sylvia	(by her boss).
A new kitten	was bought for	the children	(by their aunt).

- With verbs which take two objects such as **bring, tell, send, show, teach, promise, buy, throw, write, award, hand, sell, owe, grant, allow, pass, post, read, take, offer, give, pay** and **lend** we can make two different passive sentences.  
**active:** *Henry gave me a wedding invitation.*  
**passive:** a) *I was given a wedding invitation by Henry.*  
(more usual)  
b) *A wedding invitation was given to me by Henry.* (less usual)
- When the verb of the active sentence is followed by a preposition, the preposition follows immediately after the verb in the passive.  
**active:** *They charged him with the crime.*  
**passive:** *He was charged with the crime.*
- To ask questions in the passive, we invert the verb and the subject. *Has he painted the fence yet? Has the fence been painted yet?*
- When we want to find out **who** or **what** did something, then the passive question form is as follows: **Who/What ... by?** *Who was the telephone invented by? What was the damage caused by?*
- The verbs **hear, help, see** and **make** are followed by the **infinitive without to** in the active but by the **to-infinitive** in the passive.  
**active:** *They saw her open the door.*  
**passive:** *She was seen to open the door.*
- **Let** becomes **be allowed to** in the passive.  
**active:** *They don't let you touch the exhibits.*  
**passive:** *You aren't allowed to touch the exhibits.*

## The Passive with *Get*

### *Get* + Adjective

- (a) I'm *getting hungry*. Let's eat soon.  
(b) I stopped working because I *got sleepy*.

**Get** may be followed by certain adjectives. **Get** gives the idea of change — the idea of becoming, beginning to be, growing to be.

In (a): *I'm getting hungry* = I wasn't hungry before, but now I'm beginning to be hungry.

### Common adjectives that follow *get*

angry	cold	fat	hungry	quiet	tall
anxious	comfortable	full	late	ready	thirsty
bald	dark	good	light	rich	warm
better	dizzy	hard	mad	ripe	well
big	easy	healthy	nervous	serious	wet
busy	empty	heavy	noisy	sick	worse
chilly	famous	hot	old	sleepy	

## Get + Past Participle

(c) I stopped working because I *got tired*.

(d) They *are getting married* next month.

**Get** may also be followed by a past participle. The past participle functions as an adjective; it describes the subject.

The passive with **get** is common in spoken English, but not in formal writing.

### Common past participles with *get*

get accepted (for, into)  
get accustomed to  
get acquainted (with)  
get arrested (for)  
get bored (with)  
get confused (about)  
get crowded (with)  
get divorced (from)  
get done (with)

get dressed (in)  
get drunk (on)  
get elected (to)  
get engaged (to)  
get excited (about)  
get finished (with)  
get fixed (by)  
get hurt (by)  
get interested (in)

get invited (to)  
get involved (in, with)  
get killed (by, with)  
get lost (in)  
get married (to)  
get prepared (for)  
get scared (of)  
get sunburned  
get worried (about)

## to have something done



I have my house painted once every five years. I use a local company. They're very good.



### Use

When you *have something done*, someone does it for you. It is usually a service that you pay someone to do because it is their job.

*I have my hair cut every six weeks.* (by the hairdresser)

*Carol has her house painted once every five years.* (by professional painters)

*How often do you have your car checked?* (by the garage)

We don't usually say who does the action. But if we say this, we use *by*:

*Paula has her hair cut by Sergio at the hairdresser's in the high street.*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** In everyday English, we can also say *get something done*:

*I'm going to get my hair cut tomorrow.*

*Don't forget to get the car checked.*

# to have something done

<b>Present simple</b>	<i>She cleans the house once a week.</i>	<i>She has the house cleaned once a week.</i>
<b>Present continuous</b>	<i>She is cleaning the house at the moment.</i>	<i>She is having the house cleaned at the moment.</i>
<b>Past simple</b>	<i>She cleaned the house yesterday.</i>	<i>She had the house cleaned yesterday.</i>
<b>Past continuous</b>	<i>She was cleaning the house at 2 o'clock yesterday.</i>	<i>She was having the house cleaned at 2 o'clock yesterday.</i>
<b>Future simple</b>	<i>She will clean the house tomorrow.</i>	<i>She will have the house cleaned tomorrow.</i>
<b>Present perfect</b>	<i>She has just cleaned the house.</i>	<i>She has just had the house cleaned.</i>
<b>Present perfect cont.</b>	<i>She has been cleaning the house all morning.</i>	<i>She has been having the house cleaned all morning.</i>
<b>Past perfect</b>	<i>She had cleaned the house before Mark came home from work.</i>	<i>She had had the house cleaned before Mark came home from work.</i>
<b>Past present cont.</b>	<i>She had been cleaning the house all morning.</i>	<i>She had been having the house cleaned all morning.</i>
<b>Infinitives</b>	<i>She wants to clean the house.</i>	<i>She wants to have the house cleaned.</i>
<b>-ing forms</b>	<i>It's worth cleaning the house.</i>	<i>It's worth having the house cleaned.</i>
<b>Modals</b>	<i>We can clean the house now.</i>	<i>We can have the house cleaned now.</i>

## Personal/Impersonal construction

The verbs **think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, understand**, etc. are used in the following passive patterns in personal and impersonal constructions.

**active:** *People believe that he lied to the police.*

**passive:** a) **subject (person) + passive verb + to-infinitive** (personal construction) *He is believed to have lied to the police.*

b) **It + passive verb + that-clause** (impersonal construction) *It is believed (that) he lied to the police.*

## Common Non-Progressive Passive Verbs + Prepositions

- (a) I'm *interested in* Greek culture.  
 (b) He's *worried about* losing his job.

Many non-progressive verbs are followed by prepositions other than *by*.

be concerned	} <i>about</i>	be composed	} <i>of</i>	be acquainted	} <i>with</i>
be excited		be made		be associated	
be worried		be tired		be cluttered	
be discriminated	<i>against</i>	be frightened	} <i>of/by</i>	be crowded	
be known	} <i>for</i>	be scared		be done	
be prepared		be terrified		be equipped	
be qualified		be accustomed	be filled		
be remembered		be addicted	be finished		
be well known		be committed	be pleased		
be divorced	} <i>from</i>	be connected	} <i>to</i>	be provided	
be exhausted		be dedicated		be satisfied	
be gone		be devoted		} <i>with/by</i>	
be protected		be engaged			be annoyed
	be exposed	be bored			
be dressed	} <i>in</i>	be limited	be covered		
be interested		be married			
be located		be opposed			
be disappointed	} <i>in/with</i>	be related			
be involved					



## Examples of infinitive forms

<b>Present infinitive active</b>	to work, to do
<b>Present continuous infinitive active</b>	to be working, to be doing
<b>Perfect infinitive active</b>	to have worked, to have done
<b>Perfect continuous infinitive active</b>	to have been working, to have been doing
<b>Present infinitive passive</b>	to be done
<b>Perfect infinitive passive</b>	to have been done