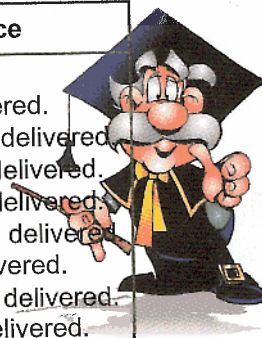


The Passive

The Passive

• The **Passive** is formed with the appropriate tense of the verb to be + past participle.

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present Simple	He delivers letters.	Letters are delivered.
Past Simple	He delivered the letters.	The letters were delivered.
Present Perfect	He has delivered the letters.	The letters have been delivered.
Past Perfect	He had delivered the letters.	The letters had been delivered.
Present Continuous	He is delivering the letters.	The letters are being delivered.
Past Continuous	He was delivering the letters.	The letters were being delivered.
Future Simple	He will deliver the letters.	The letters will be delivered.
Infinitive	He has to deliver the letters.	The letters have to be delivered.
Modal + be + past part.	He must deliver the letters.	The letters must be delivered.



The **Passive** is used:

- 1** when the agent (= the person who does the action) is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.
*My car **was stolen**.* (We don't know who stole it.)
*This church **was built** in 1815.* (unimportant agent)
*He **has been arrested**.* (obviously by the police)

- 2** to make more polite or formal statements.
*The car **hasn't been cleaned**.* (more polite)
 (You haven't cleaned the car. - less polite)

- 3** when the action is more important than the agent, as in processes, instructions, events, reports, headlines, news items, and advertisements.
*30 people **were killed** in the earthquake.*

- 4** to put emphasis on the agent.
*The new library **will be opened** by the Queen.*

Changing from Active into Passive

	Subject	Verb	Object	(agent)
Active	Picasso	Painted	that picture.	
Passive	That picture	was painted		by Picasso.

- The object of the active verb becomes the subject in the new sentence.
- The **active verb** changes into a passive form and the subject of the active verb becomes the agent. The agent is introduced with **by** or it is omitted.
 After modal verbs (will, can, must, have to, should, may, ought to) we use be + past participle.
*You **can** use the machine for cutting bread. → The machine **can be used** for cutting bread.*
- We use **by** + agent to say who or what carries out the action. We use **with** + instrument / material / ingredient to say what the agent used.
*A cake was made **by Tina**. It was made **with eggs, flour and sugar**.*
- We put the agent (= the person who does the action) into the passive sentence only if it adds information. When the agent is unknown, unimportant or obvious it is omitted. Agents such as people (in general), they, somebody, etc. are omitted.
Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
*The telephone was invented **by Alexander Graham Bell**.* (The agent is not omitted because it adds information.)
Somebody pushed him. He was pushed ~~(by somebody)~~. (Unknown agent is omitted.)
The police arrested him. He was arrested ~~(by the police)~~. (Obvious agent is omitted.)

1. Fill in: is, are, was or were.

- 1 Penicillin discovered by Alexander Fleming.
- 2 The Harry Potter books written by J. K. Rowling.
- 3 Breakfast served from 7:00 am to 11:00 am daily.
- 4 Anitkabir visited by thousands of tourists each year.
- 5 A short story competition organised by our school every year.
- 6 The electric light bulb invented by Thomas Edison in 1879.
- 7 Many films produced in Hollywood.
- 8 The film *Titanic* directed by James Cameron.

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

- 1 **A:** Are you coming to Tom's party?
B: Unfortunately, ... *I haven't been invited* (not/invite).
- 2 **A:** Where can I find interesting facts for my project on dinosaurs?
B: All the information you need (can/find) at the library.
- 3 **A:** Who (Mona Lisa/paint)?
B: Leonardo da Vinci, of course!
- 4 **A:** Do you know when the Grammy Awards are?
B: Yes, they (hold) every year in February.
- 5 **A:** A new library (build) in our town at the moment.
B: Yes, I know. It (open) by the mayor when it's finished.

3. Turn from active into passive.

- 1 Someone has stolen my wallet.
My wallet has been stolen.
- 2 Jon Favreau directed Iron Man.

- 3 The doctor has examined him.

- 4 They will make the announcement tomorrow.

- 5 Emma designed this dress.

- 6 People make jam from fruit.

- 7 Jason broke the window.

- 8 A burglar broke into our house last night.

- 9 Marie Curie discovered radium.

- 10 They serve breakfast every morning at 7:00.

4. Turn from active into passive.

- 1 They are promoting her.
She is being promoted.
- 2 A famous architect designed these buildings.

- 3 Van Gogh painted that picture.

- 4 You must complete this work today.

- 5 The Queen will open the exhibition.

- 6 Lightning has struck the tree.

5. Turn the following passage into the passive.



Someone found a skeleton in a cave in the mountains yesterday. They have sent it to a laboratory. Scientists were examining it all through the night. They have discovered that it is the skeleton of a dinosaur from thousands of years ago. They are still doing tests. They are going to send it to a museum when they have completed the tests.

- 1 *A skeleton was found in a cave in the mountains yesterday.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

• When we want to find out who or what did something the passive question form is as follows: **Who / What ... by?**
Who was the TV invented by? What was the fire caused by?

6. Using the passive, ask questions to which the bold type words are the answers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Christopher Columbus discovered America.
 <i>Who was America discovered by</i></p> <p>2 I keep money in my wallet.
 </p> <p>3 A bee stung him.
 </p> <p>4 They speak English in Australia.
 </p> <p>5 They have taken his uncle to hospital.
 </p> | <p>6 The children damaged the TV.
 </p> <p>7 Da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa.
 </p> <p>8 He invited 15 people to his party.
 </p> <p>9 They grow bananas in Mersin.
 </p> <p>10 Versace designed these glasses.
 </p> |
|---|---|

7. Fill in by or with.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 The photos were taken <i>with</i> a digital camera.</p> <p>2 The Green Mile was written Stephen King.</p> <p>3 The sauce was made onions and peppers.</p> | <p>4 The room was decorated flowers.</p> <p>5 <i>Amelia</i> was directed Mira Nair.</p> <p>6 The treasure chest was opened a special key.</p> |
|---|--|

8. Turn from active into passive.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 You must leave the bathroom tidy.
 <i>The bathroom must be left tidy.</i></p> <p>2 You should water this plant daily.
 </p> <p>3 Our neighbour ought to paint the garage.
 </p> <p>4 I have to return these books to the library.
 </p> <p>5 They must pay their phone bill.
 </p> | <p>6 You should lock the front door.
 </p> <p>7 You must sign these papers.
 </p> <p>8 He has to deliver the parcel.
 </p> <p>9 You ought to put your toys away.
 </p> <p>10 We must protect the environment.
 </p> |
|--|---|

9. Rewrite the following passage in the passive.

¹Someone broke into the National Museum last night. ²He broke the window. ³He stole some valuable paintings and he destroyed a statue. ⁴The police have found fingerprints on the walls. ⁵They say they will catch the thief soon.

- 1** *The National Museum was broken into last night.*
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**
- 5**

10. Turn from active into passive.

¹A farmer dug up a very old statue last week.
²Somebody had buried it hundreds of years ago.
³The farmer took the statue to a museum.
⁴Experts are repairing it. ⁵The museum will put the statue on display. ⁶The museum has given the farmer a reward.

- 1** *A very old statue was dug up last week.*
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**
- 5**
- 6**

• With verbs taking two objects it is more usual to begin the passive sentence with the person.
I sent her some roses. She was sent some roses. (more usual) or
Some roses were sent to her. (less usual)

11. Turn from active into passive as in the example:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 He gave me a present.
 <i>I was given a present.</i>
 <i>A present was given to me.</i></p> <p>2 Jill sent Juan a letter.
 </p> <p>3 The waiter will bring us the bill.
 </p> <p>4 Her mother bought Olga some sweets.
 </p> | <p>5 The Queen presented him with a medal.
 </p> <p>6 Bob has sold Ted a second-hand car.
 </p> <p>7 Amy showed me some photos.
 </p> <p>8 Larry is going to send a letter to Tom.
 </p> |
|--|--|

12. Rewrite the newspaper headlines as complete sentences.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1 FOOTBALLER OFFERED MILLION POUNDS FOR TRANSFER</p> <p>4 PLANET BEING DESTROYED BY POLLUTION</p> <p>7 ANIMALS BEING USED TO TEST BEAUTY PRODUCTS</p> | <p>2 3-YEAR-OLD TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER SERIOUS FALL YESTERDAY</p> <p>5 TREASURE DISCOVERED IN OLD LADY'S GARDEN</p> <p>8 RARE PICASSO PAINTING TO BE EXHIBITED AT NATIONAL GALLERY NEXT MONDAY</p> | <p>3 MONEY BEING RAISED FOR BABY'S OPERATION IN USA</p> <p>6 NO CAMERAS ALLOWED IN MUSEUM</p> <p>9 TOM CRUISE ASKED TO SPONSOR CHARITY EVENT YESTERDAY</p> |
|--|---|--|

- 1 *The footballer has been offered a million pounds for the transfer.*
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 A: Those shoes look so comfortable.
 B: They <i>were made</i>. (make) in Italy.</p> <p>2 A: Why didn't you fly to Moscow?
 B: Because all the flights (cancel) due to a snowstorm.</p> <p>3 A: When (lunch/serve)?
 B: From 11 :30 am to 2:30 pm.</p> | <p>4 A: Who (the first computer game/invent/by)?
 B: Steve Russell.</p> <p>5 A: Can I bring my dog?
 B: I'm afraid pets (not/allow) in the camp.</p> <p>6 A: Why didn't you come to Helen's party?
 B: I (not/invite).</p> |
|--|--|