

## The passive

To be + 3<sup>rd</sup> form (i.e. past participle)

Note the difference between:

Dogs chase cats.

Cats are chased by dogs.

The passive exists in many tenses:

### Present simple

English **is spoken** all over the world.

### Present continuous

The roads **are being repaired** this week.

### Past simple

The text **was translated** into Chinese.

### Past continuous

The room **was being decorated** when I entered.

### Past perfect

He said the parcel **had already been delivered**.

### Present perfect

The message **has been sent** today.

### Future simple

The speech **will be recorded**.

### Going to

Sarah **is going to be promoted** next week.

**Compare:**

The CEO **made** several people **leave** their jobs.

They **were made TO** leave.

He **lets** her **choose** what they are going to eat.

She **is allowed to choose** what they are going to eat.