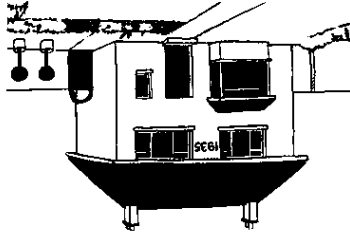


Passive 1 (is done / was done)

Study this example:



This house was built in 1935.
 Was built is *passive*.
 Compare active and passive:
 Somebody built this house in 1935. (*active*)
subject
 This house was built in 1935. (*passive*)
subject

42.1
E

When we use an active verb, we say *what the subject does*:
 My grandfather was a builder. He built this house in 1935.
 It's a big company. It employs two hundred people.
 When we use a passive verb, we say *what happens to the subject*:
 This house is quite old. It was built in 1935.
 Two hundred people are employed by the company.

42.2

When we use the passive, who or what causes the action is often unknown or unimportant:
 A lot of money was stolen in the robbery. (somebody stole it, but we don't know who)
 Is this room cleaned every day? (does somebody clean it? - it's not important who)
 If we want to say who does or what causes the action, we use by ... :
 This house was built by my grandfather.
 Two hundred people are employed by the company.

42.3

The passive is be (is/was etc.) + *past participle* (done/cleaned/seen etc.):
 (be) done (be) cleaned (be) damaged (be) built (be) seen etc.
 For irregular past participles (done/seen/known etc.), see Appendix 1.
 Study the active and passive forms of the *present simple* and *past simple*:

Present simple
 active: clean(s) / see(s) etc.
 Somebody cleans this room every day.
 passive: am/is/are + cleaned/seen etc.
This room is cleaned every day.
 Many accidents are caused by careless driving.
 I'm not often invited to parties.
 How is this word pronounced?

Past simple
 active: cleaned/saw etc.
 Somebody cleaned this room yesterday.
 passive: was/were + cleaned/seen etc.
This room was cleaned yesterday.
 We were woken up by a loud noise during the night.
 Did you go to the party? 'No, I wasn't invited.'
 How much money was stolen in the robbery?

42.4