

the passive and its uses

FORM

Use **be + past participle** to form the passive.

present simple active	We find oil and gas beneath the ground or sea.
present simple passive	<i>Oil and gas are found beneath the ground or sea.</i>
present continuous active	The police are questioning two men.
present continuous passive	<i>Two men are being questioned by the police.</i>
past simple active	Teachers trained Aztec boys to fight.
past simple passive	<i>Aztec boys were trained to fight.</i>
present perfect active	Tourism has harmed some countries.
present perfect passive	<i>Some countries have been harmed by tourism.</i>
will active	We will choose a new class representative on Monday.
will passive	<i>A new class representative will be chosen on Monday.</i>

USE

Use the passive

- to move important information (the object of the active sentence) to the beginning.
*Two men **are being questioned** by the police.*
- when we want to be impersonal and not mention the name of the person who performs the action. We often use the passive in scientific or technical processes.
*Oil and gas **are found** beneath the ground or sea.*
- when it is obvious who performed the action, eg teachers, or we do not want to use a general subject eg *people, they*.
*Aztec boys **were trained** to fight.*
*Two missing children **have been found** safe and well.*
- more often in formal speech and writing than in everyday speech.

transitive and intransitive

Verbs which have an object are called transitive verbs; verbs without an object are intransitive. Only transitive verbs can be made passive.

transitive	subject	verb	object	
	<i>I</i>	<i>lost</i>	<i>my wallet</i>	<i>on the way to school.</i>
intransitive	<i>I</i>	<i>swim</i>	–	<i>every day.</i>

Use *by*

- when it is important to know the 'agent' or person who performed the action
*Some countries **have been harmed by** tourism.*
- only when it is really necessary.
*The two men **were arrested**. (by the police – this is obvious)*

Use *with*

- for objects which perform actions.
*The game **was played with** a ball of solid rubber.*

1 Complete the sentence with the past simple passive form of the verb in brackets.

- a In ancient times, fires (light) were lit to use smoke as a signal over long distances.
- b Morse code (invent) _____ by an American called Samuel Morse.
- c The world's first television images (show) _____ to scientists in Scotland in 1926.
- d Radios (use) _____ to broadcast coded messages during the Second World War.
- e The World Wide Web (design) _____ originally to make it easier for nuclear physics researchers to communicate.
- f Buying books and CDs over the Internet (make) _____ popular by the company Amazon.
- g The first mobile phones with cameras (sell) _____ in Japan.
- h Vinyl albums and tapes (replace) _____ by CDs, which are now being replaced by mp3.
- i The first English dictionary (wrote) _____ by Robert Cawdrey in 1604.
- j The first mass-produced cars (introduce) _____ by the Ford company in the USA.

2 Read the text and underline all the subject, verb and object structures. Then rewrite the text using present simple passive verbs. Leave out any unnecessary words.

How a toy car is made

In the factory, they use a computer to plan the exact shape of the car. They then feed this computer program into a machine, and produce a plastic prototype. Then they produce the actual toy cars in a factory abroad. As far as construction is concerned, they make the bodies of the cars from plastic. They add small electric motors to the cars, and then they paint them. They also attach licence plates. Quality control inspects the cars and then they wrap them and pack them into cardboard boxes. They ship the cars to Britain.

- a As a first step, a computer is used to plan the exact shape of the car.
- b Then _____ and _____
- c The actual _____
- d The bodies _____
- e Small _____
Licence _____
- f At the next stage, _____
- g Finally, _____ Britain.

- 3 Complete the text with either the *will* passive or present perfect passive forms of the verbs in brackets.

In recent years many plans **a** (make) *have been made* for large floating cities with living accommodation for as many as 50,000 people. One such project which **b** (advertise) *has been advertised* is the Freedom Ship. According to the plans for this project, this huge ship **c** (construct) *will be made* from smaller units, which **d** (take) *will be taken* out to sea for final **assembly**. The ship **e** (power) *will be powered* by 100 **diesel** engines, and the residents on board **f** (carry) *will be carried*



around the world **continuously**.

The large number of people on the ship **g** (provide) *will be provided* with all kinds of entertainment and sports **facilities**, and modern recycling methods **h** (use) *will be used* to save energy on board. At the time of writing, this project **i** (not build) *has not been built*, and **j** (criticize) *has been criticized* by some people who say it is too expensive. We shall have to wait and see whether this ambitious plan ever becomes reality.



- 4 Rewrite the sentence using a present perfect passive with *by*. Leave out any unnecessary words.

a Cheaper air travel has made possible the global expansion in tourism.

The global expansion in tourism has been made possible by cheaper air travel.

b Countries all over the world have experienced a growth in tourism.

c Millions of tourists have visited the popular Mediterranean resorts since the 1970s.

d Recently tourists have chosen more distant locations in Africa, Asia and South America.

e Mass tourism has badly affected some countries.

f International companies have built large hotels on unspoilt coastline.

g These developments have disturbed local wildlife.

h Tourists have damaged coral reefs and other habitats.

5 Read the information about urban development. Then complete the text with the present perfect passive or past perfect passive form of the verbs in brackets.



In many countries in recent years, areas of **urban** land which were once used for industrial purposes **a** (redevelop) *have been redeveloped* for other purposes. In London, for example, the Docklands **b** (transform) *has/have been transformed* since the 1980s. The docks **c** (built) *had been built* in the 19th century when London was a busy port, but by the 1980s, most business **d** (lose) *had been lost* and many docks **e** (close) *had been closed*. This left large areas of **derelict** land, and many people without jobs. Since the 1980s, £10 billion (€14.7 billion) **f** (spend) *has been spent* on the project. 600 hectares of derelict land **g** (improve) *have been improved*, 90 km of new roads **h** (build) *have been built*, 80,000 new jobs **i** (create) *have been created* and 24,000 new homes **j** (construct) *have been constructed*. In addition to this, 100,000 new trees **k** (plant) *have been planted* and 130 hectares of parks **l** (create) *have been created*. Cultural **venues** such as the Docklands **Arena** **m** (open) *has been opened*. Some local people do not agree with all the things that **n** (do) *have been done*, as houses here are expensive, and most jobs are in **media, IT** or business. On the other hand, a declining area of the city **o** (give) *has been given* a new **lease** of life.



6A Rewrite each sentence so that it does not contain the words *someone* or *people*.

- Someone built ships with sails more than 5,000 years ago.
Ships with sails were built more than 5,000 years ago.
- Someone constructed a hot-air balloon in 1783.
.....
- People developed the steam ship in the 19th century.
.....
- Someone opened the first successful passenger railway in 1830.
.....
- People started the first passenger airlines after the First World War.
.....

6B Rewrite each sentence so that it includes the agent *by*.

- The Chinese probably printed the first books more than a thousand years ago.
.....
- The Remington company sold the first modern typewriters in the 1870s.
.....
- Edison recorded the first words on a gramophone record in 1877.
.....
- The Lumière brothers created the first modern cinema in France in 1895.
.....
- Valdemar Poulsen invented the tape recorder in 1899.
.....

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- How much do you know about history? Write five sentences about famous events in the past, using these verbs: *discover, invent, paint, write, build*.
- Write a list of five recent news events in your country. Describe what was done at a particular time.

causative *have*, verbs with two objects, passive reporting verbs

FORM

have + object + past participle

present simple	<i>I have my hair cut once a month.</i>
present continuous	<i>They're having their house decorated at the moment.</i>
past simple	<i>We had the computers checked last week.</i>
present perfect	<i>Tom has had his nose altered.</i>
going to future	<i>I'm going to have my photograph taken.</i>

Use causative *have*

- to describe a service eg painting, decorating, haircut, operation, etc that somebody does for us.
We do not usually say who performed the action unless this is important.
I'm going to have my photograph taken. (by a photographer = not necessary)
I'm going to have my photograph taken by a top fashion photographer. (important information)
- for unfortunate events eg accident, fire, theft etc.
Sally has had her car stolen.

We can use *get* instead of *have* in everyday speech eg *I get my hair cut once a month.*

Note: *Get something done* can also mean *manage to do something*.

Did you get your project done?

We also use *get done* for unfortunate events when there is no agent.

Did anyone get hurt?

We can also use *get* instead of *be* in the passive in everyday speech with verbs such as *invite*, *offer*, *choose*, *take*, *send* etc.

We got invited to Jim's house. She got sent to France on a course.

FORM

Verbs with two possible objects

buy, give, lend, make something for someone, offer, prepare something for someone, promise, sell, send, take something to someone

give *Jim gave Alan some help. Jim gave some help to Alan.*

take *David took Susan a present. David took a present to Susan.*

Verbs with two possible objects have two passive forms, but one is more commonly used.

Alan was given some help by Jim. (more common)

Some help was given to Alan by Jim.

Susan was taken a present by David. (more common)

A present was taken to Susan by David.

FORM

Reporting verbs

believe, expect, know, report, say, think, suppose, understand

Present simple passive + *to do* / *to be doing* are used for reports about the present.

The missing painting is believed to be in Switzerland.

The government is said to be studying the proposal.

Use reporting verbs and *to do / to be doing*

- when there is uncertainty about the report. This is common in news reports.
The missing painting is in Switzerland. (= a definite fact)
The missing painting is believed to be in Switzerland. (= that's what people believe)

Includes exercises from Units 20 and 21.

- 1 Complete each sentence using present continuous causative *have*. Leave out the words underlined.

- a What are you doing on Monday?
 In the afternoon a photographer is taking my photograph.
 In the afternoon I am having my photograph taken.
- b What is Anna doing on Tuesday?
 In the morning a hairdresser is cutting her hair.
 In the morning she _____.
- c And what is Alan doing on Wednesday?
 In the afternoon a dentist is taking out a tooth.
 In the afternoon he _____.
- d What is happening at your house on Thursday?
Some decorators are painting our kitchen.
 We _____.
- e Are you using your car on Friday?
 No, the garage is servicing it.
 No, I _____.
- f And what are Sue and David doing on Saturday?
Some plumbers are fitting their new central heating.
 They _____.



- 2 Rewrite each sentence so that it contains a past simple causative *have*. Leave out any unnecessary words.

- a Someone broke Tim's nose while he was playing football.
 Tim had his nose broken while he was playing football.
- b Someone stole Maria's bike last week.
 Maria _____.
- c Someone damaged Mr Grover's car last week.
 Mr Grover _____.
- d Someone took Anna's mobile.
 Anna _____.
- e Someone sprayed paint on our garden wall.
 Our _____.
- f Someone broke into our house.
 We _____.
- g Someone knocked off one policeman's helmet.
 One policeman _____.
- h Someone smashed our windows with a brick.
 We _____.

3 Rewrite each sentence without the words underlined and using a form of causative *have*. Make any other necessary changes.

Cosmetic surgery, which used to be only for film stars, has recently become very popular among the population as a whole.

a Surgeons remove people's scars and blemishes.

People have scars and blemishes removed.

b They also lift people's faces in order to look younger.

c In a recent poll, many people admitted that surgeons had altered their noses.

In a recent poll, _____

d Surgeons had also reshaped the eyes of several people.

e Doctors had also thickened one woman's lips.

f Psychologists are worried that so many young people want doctors to change their appearance. Psychologists are worried that _____

g So if you're thinking of asking a doctor to perform an operation, think again.

So if you're thinking of _____

h Plastic surgery can also ruin people's lives.



4 Rewrite each question so that it contains a form of *get*. Make any necessary changes.

a Did you finish your project in the end?

Did you get your project finished in the end?

b Was David sent to the head teacher's office?

c Have you done all your homework?

d Did they choose Susan as class representative?

e When are you sorting out the school sports programme?

f Have you organized your revision?

g Was Tony injured playing basketball?

h Were you invited to Maria's party?

5 Rewrite each sentence beginning and ending as shown.

- a At the end of her term at college, a multi-national company offered Emma a job in Dubai.
At the end of her term at college, Emma was offered a job in Dubai
by a multi-national company.
- b It wasn't very well-paid, but they promised her a good position in the future.
It wasn't very well-paid, but she _____ in the future.
- c They sent her a letter explaining all the details.
She _____ the details.
- d The company explained that they would give her free accommodation.
The company explained that she _____ free accommodation.
- e Her parents lent her some money to buy some new clothes and a laptop.
She _____ by her parents to buy some new clothes
and a laptop.
- f Her fellow students gave her some CDs as a present.
She _____ as a present by her fellow students.

6 Rewrite each news item beginning as shown.

- a People believe that the Prime Minister is seriously ill.
The Prime Minister is believed to be seriously ill.
- b People think that she is in hospital.
She _____
- c People suppose that she is flying to Washington tomorrow.
She _____
- d People understand that she is remaining in London.
She _____
- e People do not say that she is dangerously ill.
She _____
- f People expect her to leave hospital in a few days.
She _____
- g People believe that doctors are at her bedside day and night.
Doctors _____
- h People know that her illness is a kind of flu.
Her illness _____
- i People understand that she is taking antibiotics.
She _____
- j People report that she is in good spirits.
She _____

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- 1 Write a sentence describing what you have done by these people.
decorator mechanic photographer tailor burglar
- 2 Write a sentence describing what you have done in these places.
hairdresser's garage dry cleaner's dentist's artist's studio

Unit 20

Ex 1

a were lit b was invented c were shown d were used
e was designed f was made g were sold h were
replaced i was written j were introduced

Ex 2

a As a first step, a computer is used to plan the exact shape of the car. b Then this computer programme is fed into a machine and a plastic prototype is produced. c The actual toy cars are produced in a factory abroad. d The bodies are made from plastic. e Small electric motors are added to the cars, and they are painted. Licence plates are also attached. f At the next stage, the cars are inspected, then they are wrapped and packed into cardboard boxes. g Finally, the cars are shipped to Britain.

Ex 3

a have been made b has been advertised c will be constructed d will be taken e will be powered f will be carried g will be provided h will be used i has not been built j has been criticized

Ex 4

a The global expansion in tourism has been made possible by cheaper air travel. b A growth in tourism has been experienced by countries all over the world. c The popular Mediterranean resorts have been visited by millions of tourists since the 1970s. d Recently more distant locations in Africa, Asia and South America have been chosen by tourists. e Some countries have been badly affected by mass tourism. f Large hotels have been built on unspoilt coastline by international companies. g Local wildlife has been disturbed by these developments. h Coral reefs and other habitats have been damaged by tourists. i Local people have also been displaced by such developments. j The idea of ecotourism has been developed by some governments to counteract some of these problems.

Ex 5

a have been redeveloped b has / have been transformed c had been built d had been lost e had been closed f has been spent g have been improved h have been built i have been created j have been constructed k have been planted l have been created m have been opened n have been done o has been given

Ex 6A

a Ships with sails were built more than 5,000 years ago. b A hot-air balloon was constructed in 1783. c The steam ship was developed in the 19th century. d The first successful passenger railway was opened in 1830. e The first passenger airlines were started after the First World War.

Ex 6B

f The first books were probably printed by the Chinese more than a thousand years ago. g The first modern typewriters were sold by the Remington company in the 1870s. h The first words were recorded on a gramophone record by Edison in 1877. i The first modern cinema was created by the Lumière brothers in France in 1895. j The tape recorder was invented by Valdemar Poulsen in 1899.

Unit 21

Ex 1

a I am having my photograph taken. b is having her hair cut. c is having a tooth taken out. d are having our kitchen painted. e am having it (my car) serviced. f are having their new central heating fitted.

Ex 2

a Tim had his nose broken while he was playing football. b Maria had her bike stolen last week. c Mr Grover had his car damaged last week. d Anna had her mobile taken. e Our garden wall had paint sprayed on it. f We had our house broken into. g One policeman had his helmet knocked off. h We had our windows smashed with a brick.

Ex 3

a People have scars and blemishes removed. b People also have their faces lifted in order to look younger. c In a recent poll, many people admitted that they had had / admitted having their noses altered. d Several people had also had their eyes reshaped. e One woman had also had her lips thickened. f Psychologists are worried that so many young people want to have their appearance changed. g So if you're thinking of having an operation performed, think again. h People can also have their lives ruined by plastic surgery.

Ex 4

a Did you get your project finished in the end?
b Did David get sent to the head teacher's office?
c Did you get all your homework done? d Did Susan get chosen as class representative? e When are you getting the school sports programme sorted out? f Did you get your revision organized? / Have you got your revision organized? g Did Tony get injured playing basketball? h Did you get invited to Maria's party?

Ex 5

a was offered a job in Dubai b was promised a good position c was sent a letter explaining all d would be given e was lent some money f was given some CDs

Ex 6

a is believed to be seriously ill. b is thought to be in hospital. c is supposed to be flying to Washington tomorrow. d is understood to be remaining in London. e is not said to be dangerously ill. f is expected to leave hospital in a few days. g are believed to be at her bedside day and night. h is known to be a kind of flu. i is understood to be taking antibiotics. j is reported to be in good spirits.