



PASSIVE VOICE

A short overview

PASSIVE I

Somebody built this house in 1927.

subject

object

(what the subject does/did)

This house was built (by my grandfather) in 1927.

subject

(agent)

(what happened to the subject)

PASSIVE INFINITIVES

The passive is

BE + past participle (done/cleaned/seen, etc.)

Present infinitive: I want to **be left** alone. It can **be repaired**. It will **be taught**.

Past infinitive: It must **have been lost**.

DIFFERENT TENSES: EXAMPLES

Present simple: The room **is** cleaned every day.

Present progressive: The room **is being** cleaned right now.

Past simple: The room **was** cleaned yesterday.

Past progressive: The room **was being** cleaned.

Present perfect: The room **has been** cleaned.

Past perfect: The room **had been** cleaned.

Future simple: The room **will be** cleaned.

Future perfect: The room **will have been** cleaned.

VERBS WITH TWO OBJECTS

Somebody gave **the police** **the information**.

Two possible passive sentences:

The police has been given the information.

The information has been given to the police.

Other verbs:

ask offer pay show teach tell