

## The Passive: Review of all Tenses; The Causative



## TEST YOURSELF

Read the pairs of sentences below and circle the sentence which is correct.

EXAMPLE: A The new table was deliver yesterday.

B The new table was delivered yesterday.

- 1 A The windows are being cleaned by a window cleaner once a month.  
B The windows are cleaned by a window cleaner once a month.
- 2 A This house was built with my grandparents in 1952.  
B This house was built by my grandparents in 1952.
- 3 A They predict that a cure for cancer will be found soon.  
B They predict that a cure for cancer will find soon.
- 4 A Tomorrow at 9.30 a.m. the pupils will be being examined.  
B Tomorrow at 9.30 a.m. the pupils will be examined.
- 5 A French is not a difficult language to learn.  
B French is not a difficult language to be learned.
- 6 A The book is going to publishing next week.  
B The book is going to be published next week.
- 7 A She was seen by someone at the cinema.  
B She saw by someone at the cinema.
- 8 A All of a sudden, he was appeared in front of me.  
B All of a sudden, he appeared in front of me.
- 9 A Tickets for the concert can purchase at the box office.  
B Tickets for the concert can be purchased at the box office.
- 10 A They are said to be very athletic.  
B They say to be very athletic.
- 11 A Have they been told the pupils that there will be no school tomorrow?  
B Have the pupils been told that there will be no school tomorrow?
- 12 A When we arrived, the baby was being fed.  
B When we arrived, the baby was been fed.
- 13 A This homework should be handed in two days ago.  
B This homework should have been handed in two days ago.
- 14 A Will the museum be closed on Sunday?  
B Will it be closed the museum on Sunday?
- 15 A They were educated at a very good school.  
B They were educating at a very good school.
- 16 A Be careful! The floor has being polished.  
B Be careful! The floor has been polished.
- 17 A She had been taken her photograph so that she could renew her passport.  
B She had her photograph taken so that she could renew her passport.
- 18 A She had an architect design her new house.  
B She had an architect for designing her new house.
- 19 A We got the gardener planted some new trees.  
B We got the gardener to plant some new trees.
- 20 A We are having the new sofa delivered tomorrow.  
B We are having delivered the new sofa tomorrow.

Check your answers with your teacher. How many of them are correct?

0-6: Start studying! 7-9: Try harder! 10-12: Quite good! 13-15: Good! 16-20: Excellent!



## Passive: Review of all Tenses

PASSIVE FORM	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
<b>PRESENT SIMPLE</b> am / is / are + past participle	<i>They <b>prepare</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>is prepared</b>.</i>
<b>PRESENT CONTINUOUS</b> am / is / are being + past participle	<i>They <b>are preparing</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>is being prepared</b>.</i>
<b>PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE</b> has / have been + past participle	<i>They <b>have prepared</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>has been prepared</b>.</i>
<b>PAST SIMPLE</b> was / were + past participle	<i>They <b>prepared</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>was prepared</b>.</i>
<b>PAST CONTINUOUS</b> was / were being + past participle	<i>They <b>were preparing</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>was being prepared</b>.</i>
<b>PAST PERFECT SIMPLE</b> had been + past participle	<i>They <b>had prepared</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>had been prepared</b>.</i>
<b>FUTURE SIMPLE</b> will be + past participle	<i>They <b>will prepare</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>will be prepared</b>.</i>
<b>FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE</b> will have been + past participle	<i>They <b>will have prepared</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>will have been prepared</b>.</i>
<b>BE GOING TO</b> be going to be + past participle	<i>They <b>are going to prepare</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>is going to be prepared</b>.</i>
<b>MODAL</b> modal + be + past participle	<i>They <b>should prepare</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>should be prepared</b>.</i>
<b>SEMI-MODAL</b> semi-modal + be + past participle	<i>They <b>have to prepare</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>has to be prepared</b>.</i>
<b>MODAL PERFECT</b> modal + have been + past participle	<i>They <b>should have prepared</b> the meal.</i>	→ <i>The meal <b>should have been prepared</b>.</i>

## NOTES

- 1 Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous, Future Continuous and Future Perfect Continuous do not have a passive form.
- 2 We use the passive form when we want to stress the action rather than the person who does it (the agent). We also use the passive when we don't know who the agent is.  
*Two people **were killed** in the accident.*      *The house **was built** in 1860.*
- 3 When changing from active to passive, the tense does not change.  
*They **are washing** the car. (Present Continuous)* → *The car **is being washed**. (Present Continuous)*
- 4 The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.  
*They painted **the bedroom** white.* → ***The bedroom** was painted white.*
- 5 Some verbs do not take an object and cannot be made passive.  
*The car **disappeared** round a corner. (no passive possible)*
- 6 **By + agent** is used when it is important to know who does the action. We do not say *by people / by someone / by him, her, them, etc.*  
*The book was written **by a well-known author**.*  
When we refer to an instrument or tool used by someone, we use **with** not **by**.  
*The meat was cut **with** a sharp knife.*
- 7 Some verbs can have two objects (e.g., *give, send, pay, lend, sell, teach, offer, etc.*). In the passive, usually the person becomes the subject of the sentence.  
*He gave **Jane** a book. or He gave a book to **Jane**.* → ***Jane** was given a book. (not: A book was given to Jane. ✗)*



- 8 Don't forget the particle with phrasal verbs in the passive.  
*He **picked up** the parcel. → The parcel **was picked up**.*
- 9 When the verbs *believe*, *consider*, *expect*, *know*, *say* and *suppose* are used in the passive form, they are followed by *to* + infinitive.  
*People **consider her an excellent dancer**. → She **is considered to be** an excellent dancer.*  
 Alternatively, *it* can be used as the subject of the sentence.  
*People **know that he was a spy**. → **It is known that he was a spy**.*

## The Causative

The causative has a passive meaning.

FORM	USE	EXAMPLES
<b>have / get + object + past participle</b>	subject arranges for someone else to do something for him	<i>They <b>had / got their camera repaired</b>. I <b>have / get my teeth checked</b> every year.</i>
<b>have + agent + bare infinitive + object</b>	subject arranges for someone else to do something for him; the agent is always mentioned	<i>Jim <b>has a driver take him to work</b>. We <b>will have the cleaners pick up</b> the dirty clothes.</i>
<b>get + agent + to + bare infinitive + object</b>	subject arranges for / persuades someone else to do something for him; the agent is always mentioned	<i>I <b>will get a dressmaker to make me a dress</b>. Did you <b>get an architect to design</b> your new house?</i>

### NOTE

*Have / get + object + past participle* can also mean that something unpleasant happens to somebody.

*He **had / got his wallet stolen** on the train. (= Somebody stole his wallet.)*

## COMMON MISTAKES

The following sentences contain mistakes commonly made by students. Rewrite them correctly.



1. Some new houses are building near the high school.

.....

2. They were shouted by the neighbour.

.....

3. The picture was painted by someone last year.

.....

4. He supposed to be abroad.

.....

5. They say his parents to be rich.

.....

6. It has been brought forward the date of the examination.

.....

7. He will get the mechanic repaired his car.

.....

8. They had the room painted themselves.

.....



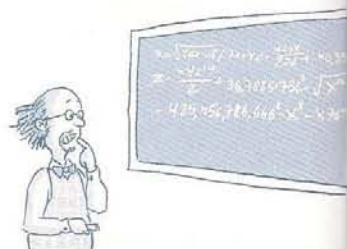
## Grammar Practice

### A. Circle the correct form of the verb.

- Every week, hundreds of people **were injured** / **are being injured** / **are injured** in car accidents.
- The price of cigarettes is going to **be increased** / **have been increased** / **been increased**.
- The fish we ate last night **has been served** / **was served** / **was being served** with a very tasty sauce.
- They told us that the house **is not being sold** / **had not been sold** / **will not have been sold** yet and was still available.
- Will the strike **is called off** / **have been called off** / **has been called off** by this time tomorrow?
- The lights aren't working today, so the traffic **was being controlled** / **is controlled** / **is being controlled** by a policeman.
- Your complaint **was already being reported** / **will already be reported** / **has already been reported** to the manager.
- People think the minister's resignation **is announced** / **will be announced** / **will be being announced** soon.

### B. ACTIVE OR PASSIVE? Circle the correct answer.

- The musicians **were employed** / **employed** only for the summer season.
- Drinking a glass of red wine every day **says** / **is said** to be good for you.
- Football **plays** / **is played** in most parts of the world.
- Library books **must be returned** / **must return** within three weeks.
- A bridge across the river **is building** / **is being built** and should open next year.
- These mathematical problems are not easy **to solve** / **to be solved**.



### C. Change the following sentences from active to passive.

- They have already handed in their report.  
Their report .....
- The organisers will provide all the necessary equipment.  
All the necessary equipment .....
- Someone hit him on the head with a heavy stick.  
He .....
- People think that Alison is a talented artist.  
Alison .....
- They believe that Arnold is travelling abroad at the moment.  
Arnold .....
- People say that she is an expert in her field.  
She .....

### D. Complete the following sentences with the correct passive form of the verb in brackets.

- The medicine should ..... (take) three times a day.
- More thought needs ..... (give) to the problem of pollution.
- That old building must ..... (pull down) since the last time we were here.
- The camera can't ..... (repair) properly; it's still not working.
- The film might ..... (make) in Ireland; they haven't decided yet.
- The club's rules have ..... (obey), otherwise we won't accept you as a member.
- Yesterday's power cut could ..... (cause) by the thunderstorm.
- The stolen car may ..... (find) by the police by now; I hope so.



**E. Complete the following sentences with the correct active or passive form of the verb in brackets.**

1. My father went to work by bus yesterday because his car ..... (service).
2. Why ..... the television ..... (leave on) all night?
3. John Davies, who ..... (write) this book, ..... (award) a prize.
4. As soon as the date for the wedding ..... (decide), the family started to prepare.
5. The slices of meat are very thin because they ..... (cut) with a very sharp knife.
6. The newspaper ..... (publish) a weekend magazine since 1985.
7. An important exhibition of modern art ..... (hold) in London at the moment.
8. By the time I come home tonight, ..... the new washing machine ..... (install)?
9. The final decision about the closure of the hospital ..... (make) in the next few days.
10. I must ..... (leave) the window open. The papers  
..... (disappear).

**F. THE CAUSATIVE Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.**

1. At the moment, they ..... (have) the concert programmes ..... (print).
2. Last week, we ..... (get) the roof of the house ..... (repair).
3. She is thinking of ..... (have) caterers ..... (make) the food.
4. Older people should ..... (get) their eyes ..... (test) regularly.
5. Tomorrow, I ..... (get) a travel agent ..... (arrange) our trip.
6. By the time we arrived, he ..... (get) a mechanic ..... (start) the car.
7. Between 2 and 3 p.m. tomorrow, I ..... (get) my hair ..... (cut).
8. We have decided ..... (not have) the bathroom ..... (modernise).
9. They're looking forward to ..... (have) their photos ..... (develop).
10. .... (you ever have) your fortune ..... (tell)?

**Exam Practice****A. Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.**

1. "Why didn't you go to the show?"  
"All the tickets had ..... ."  
a. already sold  
b. them sold  
c. to be sold  
d. already been sold
2. The building ..... the oldest in the state.  
a. is thought that it is  
b. thought it was  
c. is thought to be  
d. thought to being
3. The door should ..... last night.  
a. lock  
b. have locked  
c. be locking  
d. have been locked
4. Basketball was invented ..... a schoolteacher.  
a. with  
b. by  
c. to  
d. at
5. Medicine ..... a lot since the last century.  
a. was developed  
b. develops  
c. has developed  
d. is been developed
6. We must ..... the car before the trip.  
a. have someone clean  
b. have it cleaned  
c. to clean  
d. have clean

**B. KEY WORD TRANSFORMATIONS** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. Someone has accused the boys of telling lies. **been**  
The boys ..... lies.
2. Police believe that a pistol was used to kill the victim. **killed**  
Police believe that ..... a pistol.
3. Today we know that smoking is dangerous to your health. **known**  
Today ..... smoking is dangerous to your health.
4. Dawn asked for her friends' help when she moved house. **got**  
Dawn ..... when she moved house.
5. The company will get the accountant to check the figures for them. **have**  
The company will ..... by the accountant.
6. Read the instructions carefully before using the DVD. **must**  
The instructions ..... before you use the DVD.
7. When I got there, the police were questioning witnesses. **by**  
When I got there, ..... the police.
8. Why didn't you point out all these things before the meeting? **should**  
All these things ..... before the meeting.

**C. OPEN CLOZE** Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

THE HEADINGTON SHARK

Thousands of people visit Oxford (1) ..... year. One of the city's most unusual attractions is the sculpture of a headless shark. This work of art, which (2) ..... known as the Headington Shark, cannot (3) ..... seen at an art gallery or in a public park, but at the home of Bill Heine, a local radio presenter. Back in 1986, Bill's neighbours awoke one morning to (4) ..... that a huge shark had appeared on the top of his house and seemed to be crashing through the roof. It had (5) ..... placed there during the night using a crane. Even though the police had been aware of what was going on, they had (6) ..... been able to prevent the shark being placed there as there was no law against this kind of act. Bill Heine (7) ..... had the sculpture especially made as a way of expressing his unhappiness about certain problems the world was facing. It was created for him (8) ..... artist John Buckley. (9) ..... the shark first appeared, various attempts (10) ..... made to force Bill to get rid of it. Some people even said it might be unsafe, but when the local authorities (11) ..... engineers to inspect the roof, they found out that the sculpture was not a danger to the public. (12) ..... those early days, the Headington Shark has been accepted by the people of Oxford.