

## PASSIVE

The passive voice expresses what happens to the **subject**.

It is formed with **to be + past participle**

### Infinitive

**active:** (to) do/clean/see etc.

*Somebody will clean the room later.*

**passive:** (to) be done/cleaned/seen etc.

*The room **will be cleaned** later.*

*The situation is serious. Something must **be done** before it's too late. .*

*A mystery is something that can't **be explained**.*

*The music was very loud and could **be heard** from a long way away.*

*A new supermarket is going **to be built** next year.*

### Past infinitive

**active:** have done/cleaned/seen etc.

*Somebody should have cleaned the room.*

**passive:** have been done/cleaned/seen etc..

*The room should **have been cleaned**.*

*I haven't received the letter yet. It might **have been sent** to the wrong address.*

*If you hadn't left the car unlocked, it wouldn't **have been stolen**.*

*There were some problems at first but they seem to **have been solved**.*

### Present perfect

**active:** have/has (done)

*The room looks nice. Somebody has cleaned it.*

**passive:** have/has been (done)

*The room looks nice. It **has been cleaned**.*

*Have you heard the news? The President **has been shot**!*

*Have you ever **been bitten** by a dog?*

*Are you going to the party?' 'No, I **haven't been invited**.'*

### Past perfect

**active:** had (done)

*The room looked nice. Somebody had cleaned it.*

**passive:** had been (done)

*The room looked nice. It **had been cleaned**.*

*The vegetables didn't taste very good. They **had been cooked** for too long.*

*The car was three years old but **hadn't been used** very much.*

### Present continuous

**active:** am/is/are (do)ing

*Somebody is cleaning the room at the moment.*

**passive:** am/is/are (being done)

*The room **is being cleaned** at the moment.*

*There's somebody walking behind us. I think **we are being followed**.*

*(in a shop) 'Can I help you, madam?' 'No, thank you. **I'm being served**.'*

### Past continuous

**active:** was/were(do)ing

*Somebody was cleaning the room when I arrived.*

**passive:** was/were being (done)

*The room **was being cleaned** when I arrived.*

*There was somebody walking behind us. We **were being followed**.*

Some verbs can have 2 objects. e.g. *give*:

We gave **the police** **the information** – it is possible to make 2 passive sentences:

*The police **were given** the information.*

*The information **was given** to the police.*

Other verbs with 2 objects are: *ask, offer, pay, show, teach, tell*

**Passive with –ing forms:**

*I don't like **being told** what to do.*

*He hates **being kept** waiting.*

*We climbed over the wall without **being seen**.*

EXERCISES:

**A/ Change into passive.**

Example: *They promoted Tom. ...Tom was promoted.*

1. The company employs two hundred people.
2. They will cancel all flights because of fog.
3. They will not make the decision until the next meeting.
4. I told the hotel reception that I wanted them to wake me up at 6,30.
5. Do you think that they should spend less money on armaments?
6. The injured man couldn't walk, they had to carry him.
7. An electrical fault might have caused the fire.
8. Somebody has cleaned the room.
9. Somebody is using the computer at the moment.
10. In the USA people elect president every four years.
11. They are building a new ring road round the city.
12. They have built a new hospital near the airport.

**B/ Write the sentences in another way, beginning in the way shown:**

Example: *They didn't give me the money ....I wasn't given the money.*

1. They asked me some difficult questions at the interview – I.....
2. Janet's colleagues gave her a present when she retired. – Janet.....
3. Nobody told me that George was ill. – I.....
4. How much will they pay you? – How much will.....
5. I think they should have offered Tom the job.- I think Tom.....
6. Has anybody shown you what to do? – Have you.....?

**C/ Complete the sentences using being + one of the verbs: ask, attack, give, invite, pay, keep**

Example: *Mr. Miller doesn't like being kept waiting.*

1. They went to the party without.....
2. Most people like ..... presents.
3. It's a dangerous city. People won't go out after dark because they are afraid of .....
4. I don't like .....stupid questions.
5. Few people are prepared to work without.....