

# Grammar Challenge

## Continuous passives

### Practice



*GRAMMAR CHALLENGE*



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



[bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com)

## BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

### Grammar Challenge – continuous passives

#### Exercise 1:

Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

1.	The exam ...
2.	Three people ...
3.	The building where I work ...
4.	When I arrived at the party, drinks ...
5.	Dinner isn't ready yet. It ...
6.	In 1992 the bridge ...
7.	Reservations ...
8.	A number of changes ...

a.	... were being served.
b.	... was still being built.
c.	... is being held in the main hall.
d.	... is still being prepared.
e.	... are being made to the procedure.
f.	... are being held against their will.
g.	... is being renovated right now.
h.	... are not being taken any more.

## BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

### Exercise 2:

Read the sentence and choose the one option a-d which best fits the space.

1. Concert tickets ... at the box office.
  - a. being sold
  - b. are being sold
  - c. are be sold
  - d. are being selling
  
2. Following yesterday's accident, 3 people are still ... for minor injuries.
  - a. treated
  - b. being treating
  - c. treating
  - d. being treated
  
3. Your suit is not ready yet. It ... right now.
  - a. is being cleaned
  - b. is being cleaning
  - c. is been cleaned
  - d. is cleaning
  
4. I could not use my car yesterday because it ...
  - a. was being serviced
  - b. were being serviced
  - c. was being service
  - d. was been serviced
  
5. He left the room while the money ...
  - a. has being collected
  - b. was been collected
  - c. was being collected
  - d. was being collecting
  
6. We couldn't use the bathroom while it ...
  - a. was been refitted
  - b. was being refitted
  - c. is being refitted
  - d. was refitting

## BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

### Exercise 3: sentence completion

Use the words in the boxes to complete the passive continuous sentences. There are 2 words in each box which you do not need to use.

1. I couldn't wear my suit yesterday because ...

cleaned	was	it	cleaning	been	being
---------	-----	----	----------	------	-------

2. My brother is in hospital - ... for a chest infection.

has	is	treat	being	treated	he
-----	----	-------	-------	---------	----

3. ... for the new restaurant?

taken	reservations	take	are	is	being
-------	--------------	------	-----	----	-------

4. ... taken online by students all over the world.

being	this	it	course	been	is
-------	------	----	--------	------	----

5. We had to stay in a hotel while ...

our	was	house	has	decorated	been	being
-----	-----	-------	-----	-----------	------	-------

6. ... about the missing jewellery.

was	people	three	are	questioned	questioning	being
-----	--------	-------	-----	------------	-------------	-------

## BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

### Grammar Challenge – continuous passives

#### Answers

##### Exercise 1:

Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

1.	The exam ...
2.	Three people ...
3.	The building where I work ...
4.	When I arrived at the party, drinks ...
5.	Dinner isn't ready yet. It ...
6.	In 1992 the bridge ...
7.	Reservations ...
8.	A number of changes ...

c.	... is being held in the main hall.
f.	... are being held against their will.
g.	... is being renovated right now.
a.	... were being served.
b.	... is still being prepared.
d.	... was still being built.
h.	... are not being taken any more.
e.	... are being made to the procedure.

##### Exercise 2:

Read the sentence and choose the one option a-d which best fits the space.

1. Concert tickets ... at the box office.
  - a. being sold – Wrong – you need to add the verb 'to be'.
  - b. are being sold - Correct – you have used a present passive continuous verb.**
  - c. are be sold – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'be'.
  - d. are being selling – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.
  
2. Following yesterday's accident, 3 people are still ... for minor injuries.
  - a. treated - Wrong – you need to add the verb 'to be' as well as 'being'.
  - b. being treating – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.
  - c. treating – Wrong - the past passive continuous is made from the verb 'to be' with 'being' and the past participle.
  - d. being treated - Correct – you have used a present passive continuous verb.**

## BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

3. Your suit is not ready yet. It ... right now.

a. **is being cleaned - Correct – you have used a present passive continuous verb.**

b. is being cleaning – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.

c. is been cleaned – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.

d. is cleaning – Wrong – you need to add 'being', and the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.

4. I could not use my car yesterday because it ...

a. **was being serviced - Correct – you have used a past passive continuous verb.**

b. were being serviced – Wrong – the verb 'to be' needs to agree with the subject.

c. was being service – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle.

d. was been serviced – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.

5. He left the room while the money ...

a. has being collected – Wrong – you need to use the verb 'to be', not 'to have'.

b. was been collected – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.

c. **was being collected - Correct – you have used a past passive continuous verb.**

d. was being collecting – Wrong – the main verb should be a past participle, not an '-ing' form.

6. We couldn't use the bathroom while it ...

a. was been refitted – Wrong – you need to use 'being', not 'been'.

b. **was being refitted - Correct – you have used a past passive continuous verb.**

c. is being refitted – Wrong – the verb 'to be' should be in the past tense.

d. was refitting – Wrong – you need to add 'being'.

### Exercise 3: sentence completion

Use the words in the boxes to complete the passive continuous sentences. There are 2 words in each box which you do not need to use.

1. I couldn't wear my suit yesterday because **it was being cleaned**.

2. My brother is in hospital - **he is being treated** for a chest infection.

3. **Are reservations being taken** for the new restaurant?

4. This course **is being taken online** by students all over the world.

5. We had to stay in a hotel while **our house was being decorated**.

6. **Three people are being questioned** about the missing jewellery.