

GRAMMAR

# More on passives

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_3032G

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can distinguish between the active and passive voice and say when they are used.
- I can correctly form the passive voice in the present perfect and present continuous tenses.



# Warm-up

**Describe** the image below. What do you see? What kind of event is this?



# Review: passive voice

Read the example sentences. **Complete** the blue boxes.

1. They **sell tickets** at the door. ➤ 2. **Tickets are sold** at the door.
3. The judges **chose an English artist**. ➤ 4. **An English artist was chosen**.

- For each sentence above, identify:  
the **subject** (if there is one)  
the **object**
- Which sentences are **active**?
- Which sentences are **passive**?

- We use the passive voice to **change the focus** in the sentence from the subject to the object.
- Forming the passive voice:  
**to be + past participle**



# Why do we use the passive voice?

**Read** the short dialogue and explanation below.



I read that a new Arts Centre **is being built** downtown.



**That's been planned** for years – I'm glad it's finally happening!

- We use the passive voice when **the subject** (the person or thing that performs the action):
  - is **unknown**
  - is **obvious** to the listener
  - is **unimportant**
- The passive voice is often used in more formal, written contexts, such as in newspaper articles.



# Reading

Read the article below. What event is described here?

## Calling all art-lovers!

**T**he city centre **has been transformed** into an art lover's paradise for this year's Art Week, with the theme of Alternative Urban Futures.

Artists from around the world **have been given** the opportunity to reimagine the city's public spaces – and the results are spectacular. Take a stroll along the promenade and discover the floating light

displays on the river or visit Main Square and lose yourself inside a massive dome made of mirrors. The highlight, however, is a video piece by visual artist Jaqueline Hutter, which **is being projected** onto the front of City Hall.

Live events, such as talks, workshops and artist interviews, **are being held** throughout the week at various locations. Advance booking is recommended,



and tickets are still available online.

# Passive voice: present continuous

Read the example sentences. Complete the blue box.

A video piece by Jaqueline Hutter **is being projected** onto City Hall.

Live events **are being held** throughout the week at various locations.

- We use the passive voice in the **present continuous** tense to talk about actions that **are happening right now**, or at the moment.

- Forming the present continuous passive:

**is/ \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + past participle**



# Passive voice: present perfect

Read the example sentences. **Complete** the blue box.

The city centre **has been transformed** into an art-lover's paradise.

Artists **have been given** the opportunity to reimagine public spaces.

- We use the **present perfect** in the passive form - like in the active form - to talk about **recent actions or experiences** as well as **ongoing actions or situations**.
- Forming the present perfect passive:

\_\_\_\_/has + \_\_\_\_\_ + **past participle**





# Forming the passive

Complete the rule below using the example sentences.

**My house is being painted, so I'm staying in a hotel for a few days.**

**The event has been postponed due to bad weather.**

## Present continuous passive

Auxiliary verb

\_\_\_\_\_



*to be*

\_\_\_\_\_



Past participle

\_\_\_\_\_

## Present perfect passive

Auxiliary verb

\_\_\_\_\_



*to be*

\_\_\_\_\_



Past participle

\_\_\_\_\_



# Transform the sentences into the passive

**Write down** your sentences. **Compare** your sentences with your classmates (option to **use breakout rooms** for this step). **Check** the answers with your teacher.

1 She hasn't sent the parcel yet.



The parcel hasn't been sent yet.

2 The police haven't caught the thief.



3 I'm not using the computer.



4 They aren't showing the film at that cinema.



5 Have you ordered the pizzas?



6 I am recording this meeting.





# Fill in the gaps

**Complete the sentences** below using the **correct tense and passive form** of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Just one moment. Your table \_\_\_\_\_ (to clean). May I take your coats while you're waiting?
- 2 I can't give you a lift today, because my car \_\_\_\_\_ (to repair) at the garage.
- 3 As the event was cancelled, all customers \_\_\_\_\_ (give) refunds on their tickets.
- 4 The bill \_\_\_\_\_ (to pay) already.
- 5 Lucy \_\_\_\_\_ (to offer) a scholarship to attend university. She got the good news yesterday!



# Changes in your town or city

**Complete** the activity below.



What are some important changes that have happened in the last twenty years in your town or city?

For example:

***A new hospital has been built.  
Some roads are being turned into cycle lanes.***

Helpful verbs:

*develop, open, turn (into), design, give, transform etc.*





# End of the lesson

Idiom

***state of the art***

**Meaning:** describes something that is brand new and high quality

**Example:** The new laboratory in the school is state of the art.



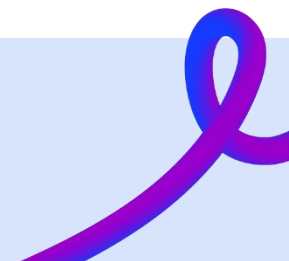
# Additional practice



# True or false

**Read** each statement. Are they true or false?

		True	False
1	The passive voice in the present perfect takes this form: Subject + <i>have/has</i> + present participle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	The passive voice in the present continuous takes this form: Subject + <i>is/are</i> + <i>being</i> + past participle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	We often use the passive voice when the subject is unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	We never use the passive voice when the subject is obvious to the listener	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	We often use the passive voice when the subject is unimportant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



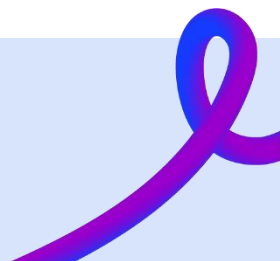




# Form sentences

Form sentences using the prompts.

- |   |  |   |                            |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | The exams / to mark<br>(present continuous)                      | > | The exams are being marked |
| 2 | The painting / to find<br>(present perfect)                      | > |                            |
| 3 | A theatre / to choose / for our performance                      | > |                            |
| 4 | The audience / to make / to wait<br>(present continuous)         | > |                            |
| 5 | All the ticket / to sell<br>(present perfect)                    | > |                            |
| 6 | The performance / to receive / good reviews<br>(present perfect) | > |                            |





# Describe the pictures

**Describe** the pictures using the passive voice.



1. What is happening? (present continuous)
2. What has happened? (present perfect)



# Discuss



**How has where you lived changed in the last 10 years?**



**Use the passive voice in your answers**



# Discuss



**You are putting on a cultural event**

What is your event?

What has already  
been done?

What is currently  
being done?

Use the passive  
voice





# Answer key

## **P.4:**

Sentence 1: subject – They; object – tickets

Sentence 2: no subject; object – tickets

Sentence 3: subject – The judges; object – an English artist

Sentence 4: no subject; object An English artist

Active: 1, 3 Passive: 2, 4

**P.7:** is/are + being + past participle

**P.8:** have/has + been + past participle

## **P.9:**

Present continuous passive: is + being + painted

Present perfect passive: has + been + postponed



# Answer key

## **P.10:**

2. The thief hasn't been caught yet.
3. The computer isn't being used.
4. The film isn't being shown at that cinema.
5. Have the pizzas been ordered?
6. The meeting is being recorded.

## **P.11:**

1. is being cleaned
2. is being repaired
3. have been given
4. has been paid
5. has been offered

## **P.16:**

1. false
2. true
3. true
4. false
5. true

## **P.17:**

2. The painting has been found
3. A theatre has been chosen for our performance
4. The audience is being made to wait
5. The performance has received good reviews



# Summary

## We use the passive voice when the subject...

- ...is unknown
- ...is obvious to the listener
- ...is unimportant

## Passive voice: present continuous

- We use this to talk about actions that are happening right now, or at the moment
- is/are + *being* + past participle
- *Live events **are being held** throughout the week at various locations*

## Passive voice: present perfect

- We use this for the same reasons we use it in the active form – to talk about recent actions, experiences, and ongoing actions/situations
- have/has + *been* + past participle
- *The city centre **has been transformed** into an art lover's paradise*

## Changes to your town or city

- *A new theatre has been built*
- *A music festival has been started*
- *More exhibitions are being held*



# Vocabulary

spectacular

to take a stroll

to hold (an event)



