

The Passive Voice

- El diario de Lester sobre Essaouira **se escribió** en 1993.

(Lester's diary about Essaouira **was written** in 1993).

So remember that there is only **one way** to form the passive voice in English.

USE

SECTION TWO

1. The Passive Voice is used in English when **who** or **what** causes the action is **not important** or is **unknown**.

- The marriage festival **was canceled** last year.

(El festival de matrimonio **fue anulado** el año pasado).

Who canceled the festival is **not important** or is **unknown**.

2. If you want to say **who** or **what** causes an action in a passive sentence you add the preposition **by** + the person or thing.

- This road was built **by the Moroccan government**.

(Esta carretera fue construída por el gobierno marroquí.)

Compare the previous examples on the passive voice to the active voice. The active voice tells us what the subject does.

- The Moroccan government built this road.

TENSES

SECTION THREE

1. Some **different tenses** with the passive voice.

This Diary:

is written (present simple) = está escrito/se escribe

was written (past simple) = fue escrito/se escribió

has been written (present perfect) = ha sido escrito/ se ha escrito

had been written (past perfect) = había sido escrito/se había escrito

is going to be written (immediate future) = va a ser escrito/ va a escribirse

will be written (future) = será escrito/ se escribirá

is being written (present continuous) = está siendo escrito/se esta escribiendo

was being written (past continuous) = estaba siendo escrito/se estaba escribiendo

2. Some **modal verbs** with the passive voice.

Can be written = puede ser escrito/puede escribirse
 Could be written = podría ser escrito/ podría escribirse
 Must be written = debe ser escrito /debe escribirse
 Should be written = debería ser escrito/debería escribirse
 Would be written = estaría escrito/se escribiría

Must have been written = debe haber sido escrito/debe haberse escrito
 Should have been written = debería haber sido escrito/debería haberse escrito

OTHER USES

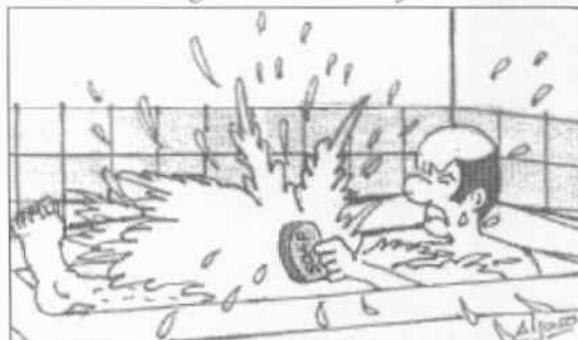
SECTION FOUR

1. Other uses of Passive Voice

1A. In English we say: **I was born = Nací**

1B. Some verbs can have **two objects**.

- I gave **Miguel** a **bar** of soap.
 Di a Miguel una barra de jabon.



1B. In the Passive Voice (like the Active Voice), it is more common to put **people first** when there are **two objects**.

1B. «**Miguel was given a bar of soap**» is more common than «**the bar of soap was given to Miguel,**» though both are correct.

2. In English we sometimes use **Get** instead of **Be** in the passive Voice. This is a **colloquial use** which requires some practice to use it correctly.

- Kadisha **got caught** sitting too close to Miguel.
 (A Kadisha le **pillaron** sentada demasiado cerca de Miguel).

The Passive Voice

2A. **Get** is only used when things **happen** or **change**. Or if something **unplanned** or **unexpected** happens.

- Rafa **got beaten** at Poker last night.
(A Rafa le **ganaron** en el Poker anoche).
- Miguel **got married** in Sevilla.
(Miguel se **casó** en Sevilla).

In **all** of the previous examples you can use the verb **to be**. The only difference is that **to get** is more **informal** and **colloquial**.

2B. In the following sentences you **cannot** use **Get** (There is no idea of surprise or change).

- Kadisha **was admired** by everybody (a general idea).
(Kadisha fue admirada por todo el mundo [una idea general]).
- Cannons **were made** in Seville (a general idea).
(Los cañones fueron fabricados en Sevilla).

PROBLEMS

SECTION FIVE

I. Problems between English and Spanish.

1A. Often we use the **Passive Voice** in English where the **Active Voice** is used in Spanish (though the subject is not important or unknown).

Example:

- If one notices his wallet is gone, the natural thing to say in English is, «**I've been robbed.**»
- In Spanish this would be, «**Me han robado.**»
- If you say, «**They've robbed me**» to someone, the immediate reaction in English would be, «**Really! Who? Where are they?**» expecting that you know who has robbed you.

1B. We occasionally use the **Active Voice** in English in a **passive manner** when the subject is **not important** or is **unknown**.

They + a few verbs such as **say, believe, think, etc.**

- **They say** it's going to rain in the desert.
(**Dicen que** va a llover en el desierto).

In this sentence, it is understood by the context that who «**they**» are is **not important**. It is only the **belief** that it is going to rain which is important.

BEFORE **PRINCESS SOFIA** JUAN CARLOS

PART ONE: HER INFANCY

She was born¹ on November 2, 1938 in Psychico, a district in Athens. Her official title was Her Royal Highness² Princess Sophia Margaret Victoria Frédérique, the eldest³ child of Prince Paul of Greece and Princess Frédérique of Hanover.

On the 28th of October, 1940, when the little princess was not yet two years old, Mussolini invaded Greece, demanding its unconditional surrender⁴. The brave⁵ Greek army, in spite of⁶ being very inferior in terms of logistics and military units, mounted⁷ an admirable resistance for six months. Finally the Germans, in April 1941, arrived in

support of their allies⁸, suppressing⁹ the noble Hellenic people and staining¹⁰ German uniforms¹¹ with the blood¹² of thousands of Greeks.

During the first days of April, the Royal Family found itself obliged¹³ to abandon Athens and took refuge¹⁴ in Crete, the only corner¹⁵ of Greek soil¹⁶ which had not yet fallen to the Nazi power¹⁷. Little Prince Constantine, Sophia's brother, was only a few months old, when King George, father of Prince Paul, and his family initiated their exodus.

They made a nightmarish¹⁸ flight¹⁹ across the fields²⁰ of the island. More than once, they had to fall to the ground²¹ in order to hide²² themselves

CHAPTER THREE



from the German bombers. Finally, they managed²³ to reach a refuge. It was a small, rickety²⁴ hotel in a mountain village. The furniture²⁵, aside²⁶ from being deficient, was plagued with bugs²⁷, especially the beds. The whole Royal Family had to get up²⁸ at midnight²⁹ with their arms³⁰, legs and faces covered with red blisters³¹. The present³² Queen Alexandra of Yugoslavia, who was then among³³ the family members of King George, relates these episodes with an excellent sense³⁴ of humor in her book, 'Intimate Memoirs': «... from time³⁵ to time, one of us presented his back³⁶ to the other, who courteously scratched³⁷ it; afterwards, the act was reciprocated.» She adds³⁸ in the same narrative: «I had never seen my serious and conservative family so

little concerned³⁹ about maintaining its poise⁴⁰. At that moment, we only lived for one thing: to scratch each other⁴¹.»

For several days they only had dark bread⁴², eggs,



olives, oranges and yogurt to eat. This exodus of the Royal Family was composed of the father, old King George, Princess Mary, King Paul with his wife and children (Sofia and Constantine) Princess Alexandra

and others. After a search⁴³, undertaken⁴⁴ by King George, they managed to get soap⁴⁵ in order to wash⁴⁶ themselves, and some cans⁴⁷ of turpentine⁴⁸. These they placed⁴⁹ under the beds in order to repel⁵⁰ the bothersome⁵¹ insects, the cause of the red bumps⁵²



that tortured them.

Little Princess Sophia and Prince Constantine fell ill⁵³ with very high temperatures; the poor things⁵⁴ cried⁵⁵ continuously and had an alarming aspect which made their mother, Princess Frédérique very worried⁵⁶.

The Royal Family knew that the little hotel was only a temporary shelter⁵⁷, a pause in their flight. Sooner⁵⁸ or later the Nazis would also arrive in Crete, but they did not think about this. Their most immediate worries⁵⁹ were to give the children maximum comfort and to think of new ways to cook eggs -- the sole⁶⁰ and invariable menu item -- and to ration⁶¹ their provisions of soap and turpentine.

Since they abandoned Athens in a hurry⁶², they carried no baggage⁶³ with them, and so they had no other clothes⁶⁴. They had sent their trunks⁶⁵ and suitcases⁶⁶ to the island on a destroyer⁶⁷, but halfway⁶⁸ there, the

boat was forced to go into action⁶⁹. The destroyer, with the royal luggage⁷⁰, was sunk⁷¹ by a German torpedo and went to the bottom of the sea.

At last, after eight terrible days, King George decided to go to Alexandria, Egypt. All the villagers⁷² of the region came to say goodbye to them, surrounding⁷³ them with a solemn and respectful silence. Old King George, who became⁷⁴ a good friend to these humble⁷⁵ people, told them as his battered⁷⁶ car passed through the group of villagers:

«I know that you will not forget your princes. We shall return⁷⁷!»

Nonetheless⁷⁸, the King and his son Paul decided to stay in Greek territory until the last moment. The rest of the Family climbed⁷⁹ into a plane⁸⁰ in Souda and flew⁸¹ over the Mediterranean Sea to North Africa, under the imminent risk⁸² of being shot⁸³.



down at any moment by enemy⁸⁴ aircraft. George II and his son Paul remained⁸⁵ in their country as long as was possible. They ran all over⁸⁶ the fields of Greece and the mountains of Crete and outwitted⁸⁷ the Nazis night and day. They constantly risked their lives, so as to instil in their brave and hardy⁸⁸ troops a courage worthy⁸⁹ of figuring among the noblest examples of heroism demonstrated by the occupied peoples.



PART TWO: THE COURTSHIP⁹⁰

In 1960 the Greek Royal Family was in Italy for the Olympic Games which were celebrated in Rome. Princess Sophia, as well as her brother Constantine,

took an active part in this along⁹¹ with their national delegation. At the opening⁹² ceremonies, the Princess paraded⁹³ around the stadium, leading⁹⁴ the Greek girls. The Prince, a world class sailor⁹⁵, won the Olympic Gold Medal for the final «Dragon Class» sailing⁹⁶ classification held in the Bay⁹⁷ of Naples.

During those days, the Spanish Royal Family was also sailing in Italian waters on board the little yacht «Saltillo», with another lover⁹⁸ of the sea, Don Juan of Borbon. His two older children Don Juan Carlos and Doña Pilar, would attend⁹⁹ the ball in Naples and follow¹⁰⁰ the sports competitions closely¹⁰¹. On board their small yacht, they gave an intimate dinner



in honor of the Greek Royal Family. Reporters, who never miss¹⁰² the least detail¹⁰³, gave a front¹⁰⁴ page account¹⁰⁵ of the second meeting between Don Juan Carlos and Princess Sophia. They had met for the first time when they were children aboard the famous cruiser¹⁰⁶ «Agamemnon.» But nobody imagined that this second meeting, now as man and woman, was the beginning of an engagement¹⁰⁷. All the indications were to the contrary. After the meal¹⁰⁸, the Princes and Princesses promenaded on deck¹⁰⁹; Constantine gallantly¹¹⁰ offered his arm to the Infanta Pilar. From the coast, a zoom lens¹¹¹ flashed¹¹². The next day, the magazines were full of speculation about an affair¹¹³ between Constantine, the handsome¹¹⁴ Greek Olympian, and Doña Pilar of Spain. Nobody suspected the truth; that the sister of Constantine and the brother of Pilar were in love¹¹⁵.

Later in the year, at the wedding¹¹⁶ of Edward of Windsor, Duke of Kent, who married the English commoner¹¹⁷ Katherine, the young Spanish Prince and the young Greek Princess met again. From that moment on, the rumors about a possible engagement between the two began, although only in restricted¹¹⁸ circles. This rumor would grow when, shortly¹¹⁹ afterwards¹²⁰, the Spanish prince was invited by the Greek monarchs to spend a few days in the summer residence of the Royal Family in Corfu, «Mon Repos». A spokesman¹²¹ for the Palace in Athens hurriedly¹²² denied¹²³ the engagement, disconcerting both Greeks and Spaniards. Nonetheless, the official announcement would follow, almost in the wake¹²⁴ of that official denial¹²⁵.

At the Swiss Exposition of 1961, dedicated to Greece, a dinner for 300 guests was celebrated. After the dessert¹²⁶ had



been served, the Prince of Asturias stood up¹²⁷ from his side of the table and walked across to where the Greek monarchs were sitting. He stood in front of King Paul, and the whole room was silent in anticipation. With absolute simplicity, he asked them for the hand in marriage of their daughter, Princess Sophia.

The following¹²⁸ day, Prince Constantine called a press conference¹²⁹ in order to make the official announcement: Her Royal Highness Princess Sophia was to marry His Royal Highness Don Juan Carlos de Borbon.

A hundred and one cannon volleys¹³⁰ fired¹³¹ from Lycabettos Hill, announcing the news to the city of Athens before the press, radio and television reporters had time to proclaim it to the whole world.

A few weeks before the wedding, the press showed Juan Carlos, for the first time ever, with his arm in a sling¹³². He had fallen down a stairway¹³³ of the Tatoi Palace a few days before. This resulted in a muscular strain. Luckily¹³⁴, he did not break his arm, although it seems that the fall was quite spectacular!



