

Passive 1 (is done / was done)

A

Study this example:

This house **was built** in 1961.**Was built** is *passive*.

Compare active and passive:

Somebody **built** this house in 1961. (*active*)

subject *object*

This house **was built** in 1961. (*passive*)

subject

When we use an active verb, we say *what the subject does*:

- ☐ My grandfather was a builder. **He built** this house in 1961.
- ☐ It's a big company. **It employs** two hundred people.

When we use a passive verb, we say *what happens to the subject*:

- ☐ 'How old is this house?' '**It was built** in 1961.'
- ☐ **Two hundred people are employed** by the company.

B

When we use the passive, who or what causes the action is often unknown or unimportant:

- ☐ A lot of money **was stolen** in the robbery. (somebody stole it, but we don't know who)
- ☐ **Is this room cleaned** every day? (does somebody clean it? – it's not important who)

If we want to say who does or what causes the action, we use **by**:

- ☐ This house was built **by my grandfather**.
- ☐ Two hundred people are employed **by the company**.

C

The passive is **be (is/was etc.) + past participle (done/cleaned/seen etc.)**:

(be) done (be) cleaned (be) damaged (be) built (be) seen etc.

For irregular past participles (**done/seen/known** etc.), see Appendix 1.Study the active and passive forms of the *present simple* and *past simple*:*Present simple**active* **clean(s) / see(s)** etc.Somebody **cleans** this room every day.*passive* **am/is/are + cleaned/seen** etc.This room **is cleaned** every day.

- ☐ Many accidents **are caused** by careless driving.
- ☐ I'm **not invited** to parties very often.
- ☐ How **is** this word **pronounced**?

*Past simple**active* **cleaned/saw** etc.Somebody **cleaned** this room yesterday.*passive* **was/were + cleaned/seen** etc.This room **was cleaned** yesterday.

- ☐ We **were woken** up by a loud noise during the night.
- ☐ 'Did you go to the party?' 'No, I **wasn't invited**.'
- ☐ How much money **was stolen** in the robbery?