

GRAMMAR

Advanced uses of the passive voice

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2092G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can use the passive voice to make plans and predictions.
- I can use the passive voice to give information or provide summaries and conclusions.



Warm-up

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **answer** the questions below.

**The email was sent to
the wrong person!**

**Has this situation ever
happened to you? What did
you do?**





Passive voice review

Review the information below.

- We often form the passive voice with the verb **to be** + **past participle**.
- Note how the **object** of the active sentences change position in the examples below.
- The **subject** of the active sentence is optional in the passive voice.

Active voice	Passive voice
I collected the parcel at 11am.	The parcel was collected at 11am.
The firm employs nine people .	Nine people are employed (by the firm).
We have interviewed two candidates so far.	Two candidates have been interviewed so far.
He left the door wide open.	The door was left wide open.



Transform the sentences

Transform the active sentences into passive sentences.

1 Our company makes electrical products.



Electrical products are made (by our company).

2 We develop new devices every year.



3 New devices have made older devices obsolete.



4 We regularly release marketing campaigns for devices.



5 Our marketing campaigns increase profits.



6 We've recently released a new laptop.





Older devices have
been made **obsolete**.

If something is **obsolete**, it is no longer
produced or used.

What do you think will become **obsolete**
in the next 10 years?



The passive using the present perfect

Review the information below.

- In the **present perfect tense**, we use the structure **have/has been+ past participle**.
- The **subject** of the active sentence is optional in the passive voice.

Active voice

She **has cleaned** the room.

They **have cancelled** the trip.

Passive voice

The room **has been cleaned**.

The trip **has been cancelled**.



Multiple choice

Choose the correct answer.

1 I haven't received the email yet. It might _____ to the wrong email address.

a. have been sent

b. was sent

2 The book _____ by the author last night.

a. has been signed

b. was signed

3 These documents should always _____ in a safe place.

a. have been kept

b. be kept

4 This computer _____ yesterday.

a. has been updated

b. was updated

5 The cat _____ since last week.

a. has not been seen

b. was not seen



The passive using the future simple

Review the information below.

- In the future simple tense, we use the structure **will be** + **past participle**.
- The **subject** of the active sentence is optional in the passive voice.

Active voice	Passive voice
They will hold a meeting about product development.	A meeting about product development will be held .
They will develop a new product.	A new product will be developed .



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the **gaps** with the verbs in the correct tense.

1 By the end of the century, most jobs _____
(replace) by robots.

2 In the next decade, payment by card _____
(accept) by all businesses.

3 By 2025, the fax machine _____ (make)
obsolete because of email and the internet.



Passive voice with two objects

1. **Read** the sentence.
2. Then **review** the information in the blue box below.

Object 1 Object 2
My brother **gave** me this book.

- Some verbs in English can have **two objects**. For example, **give**.
- In this case, it is possible to make two passive sentences, depending on which **object** you wish to focus on.
- Other verbs that can have two objects are: **ask, offer, pay, show, tell**.



1. I **was given** this book (*by my brother*).
2. This book **was given** to **me** (*by my brother*).



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb.

1 I was _____ (give) this watch by my father.

2 I've _____ (offer) the job, but I don't think I will take it.

3 He retired from his job recently. He was _____ (gift) a present by his colleagues.

4 I was _____ (show) how to use the new dishwasher.

5 We have _____ (not/give) enough information about the upcoming project.



Transform the sentences

1. **Read** the sentences.
2. **Transform** them into passive sentences.

1 She asked me a question.



*I was asked a question (by her).
A question was asked to me (by her).*

2 They gave him a laptop.



3 Sarah showed me a copy of the document.



4 The customer pays him a lot of money.



5 He told the children a secret.



6 I gave her a letter.



Passive voice sentences beginning with *it*

1. **Read** the example sentences.
2. **Review** the information in the blue boxes below.

It is expected that the increase will continue.

It is believed that their research will save many lives.

- We can use the **passive voice** to give a **summary**, or when **making conclusions**.

- We often begin these sentences with **it** + **to be** + **past participle** + **that**.
- You can use this construction with many verbs, such as **believe, say, think, expect, know, report, and understand**.



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

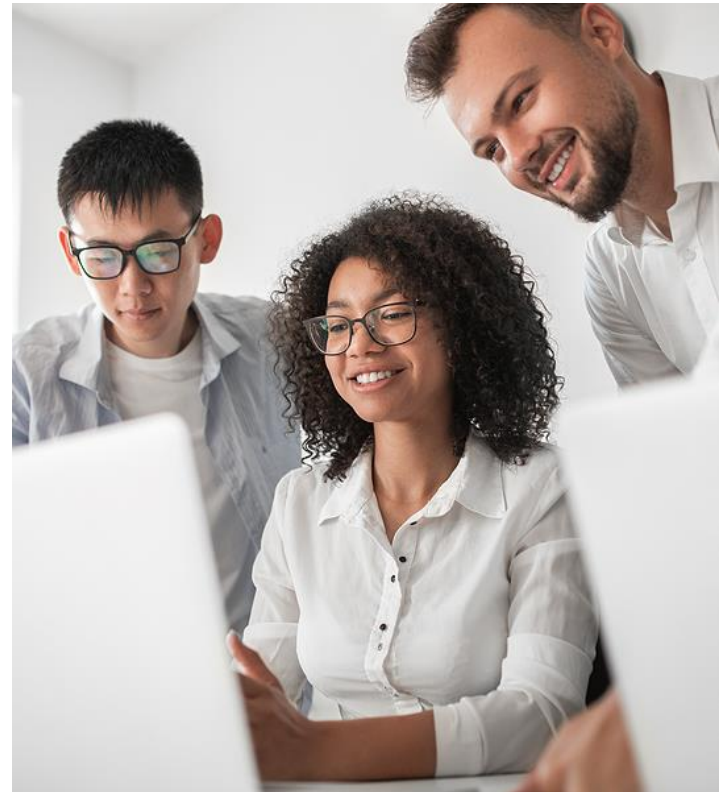
1 I was given (*name an object that is important to you*) by _____.

2 When I first started my job, I was shown how to _____.

3 In the next ten years, I believe _____ will *not* be made obsolete.

4 It is believed that _____ will help slow down global warming.

5 The last time I was mailed a handwritten letter was _____.





What will the workplace be like in 25 years?

Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.



It's expected that...

It's thought that...

It's known that...

It's said that...



End of the lesson

Idiom

talk nineteen to the dozen

Meaning: to talk fast

Example: He was so excited that he was talking nineteen to the dozen!



Additional practice



Fill in the blanks

Choose the correct word to complete the questions and sentences below.

1 Has the problem been _____?

2 How quickly do you think a solution will be _____?

3 An alternative solution should be _____ into.

4 It is _____ that researchers will find a solution in the coming months.

5 It can be _____ from recent findings that this is the way forward.

looked
seen
found
resolved
believed



Identify the direct and indirect objects

- 1. **Read** the sentences.
- 2. **Identify** the *direct* and *indirect objects* in each sentence.

1	A new computer was offered to the school.	>	Direct object: a new computer Indirect object: the school
2	New desks were given to the school.	>	
3	The training was given to all of the newly-hired staff.	>	
4	An award was presented to the employee.	>	
5	The customer was given a discount.	>	
6	The jury was shown the evidence.	>	





Verbs with two objects

1. **Read** the sentences below.
2. For each sentence, **write** two passive sentences with different subjects.

1 The company has made Mike an offer.

2 Graham lent Faye some money.

3 Otis sent Maria some documents.





Answer key

P.5: 2.) New devices are developed every year. 3.) Older devices have been made obsolete. 4.) Marketing campaigns for devices are regularly released. 5.) Profits are increased. 6.) A new laptop has recently been released.

P.8: 1.) a 2.) b 3.) b 4.) b 5.) a

P.10: 1.) will be replaced 2.) will be accepted 3.) will be made

P.12: 1.) given 2.) been offered 3.) gifted 4.) shown 5.) not been given

P.13:

2. A laptop was given to him./ He was given a laptop.

3. A copy of the document was shown to me./I was shown a copy of the document.

4.) A lot of money is paid to him./He is paid a lot of money.

5.) The children were told a secret./A secret was told to the children.

6.) A letter was given to her./She was given a letter.



Answer key

P.20: 1.) resolved 2.) found 3.) looked 4.) believed 5.) seen

P.21:

- 2.) Direct object: new desks; indirect object: the school
- 3.) Direct object: the training; indirect object: newly hired staff
- 4.) Direct object: an award; indirect object: the employee
- 5.) Direct object: a discount; indirect object: the customer
- 6.) Direct object: the jury; indirect object: the evidence

P.22:

- Mike has been given an offer by the company; An offer has been given to Mike by the company.
- Faye was lent some money by Graham; Some money was lent to Faye by Graham.
- Maria was sent some documents by Otis; Some documents were sent to Maria by Otis.



Summary

Reviewing the passive voice

- We often form the passive voice with the verb **to be** + **past participle**. The **object** of the active sentence changes position. The **subject** of the active sentence is optional in the passive voice.
- *I collected the parcel at 11am. – The parcel **was collected** at 11am.*

Reviewing the present perfect and future simple passive

- For the **present perfect passive**, we use the structure **have/has been** + **past participle**.
- *She has cleaned her room. – Her room has been cleaned.*
- For the **future simple passive**, we use the structure **will be** + **past participle**.
- *They will develop a new product. – A new product **will be developed**.*

Passive voice with two objects

- Some verbs in English can have **two objects**. For example, **give**. In this case, it is possible to make two passive sentences, depending on which **object** you wish to focus on.
- Other verbs that can have two objects are: **ask, offer, pay, show, tell**.
- *I was given this book (by my brother). **This book** was given to me (by my brother).*

Passive voice sentences beginning with it

- We can use the **passive voice** to give a **summary**, or when **making conclusions**. We often begin these sentences with **it** + **to be** + **past participle** + **that...**
- You can use this with many verbs, like **believe, say, think, expect, know, report, and understand**.
- ***It is expected that** the increase will continue.; **It is believed that** he will win.*



Vocabulary

candidate

obsolete

to hold a meeting

to slow down

handwritten

