

## Unit 43

## Passive 2 (be done / been done / being done)

**A** Study the following active and passive forms:

*Infinitive*

*active:* (to) do/clean/see etc.

Somebody will clean **the room** later.

*passive:* (to) be + done/cleaned/seen etc.

**The room** will be cleaned later.

- ☐ The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.
- ☐ A mystery is something that can't be explained.
- ☐ The music was very loud and could be heard from a long way away.
- ☐ A new supermarket is going to be built next year.
- ☐ Please go away. I want to be left alone.

**B**

*Perfect infinitive*

*active:* (to) have + done/cleaned/seen etc.

Somebody should have cleaned **the room**.

*passive:* (to) have been + done/cleaned/seen etc.

**The room** should have been cleaned.

- ☐ I haven't received the letter yet. It might have been sent to the wrong address.
- ☐ If you hadn't left the car unlocked, it wouldn't have been stolen.
- ☐ There were some problems at first, but they seem to have been solved.

**C**

*Present perfect*

*active:* have/has + done etc.

The room looks nice. Somebody has cleaned **it**.

*passive:* have/has been + done etc.

The room looks nice. **It** has been cleaned.

- ☐ Have you heard? The concert has been cancelled.
- ☐ Have you ever been bitten by a dog?
- ☐ 'Are you going to the party?' 'No, I haven't been invited.'

*Past perfect*

*active:* had + done etc.

The room looked nice. Somebody had cleaned **it**.

*passive:* had been + done etc.

The room looked nice. **It** had been cleaned.

- ☐ The vegetables didn't taste very good. They had been cooked too long.
- ☐ The car was three years old but hadn't been used very much.

**D**

*Present continuous*

*active:* am/is/are + (do)ing

Somebody is cleaning **the room** at the moment.

*passive:* am/is/are + being (done)

**The room** is being cleaned at the moment.

- ☐ There's somebody walking behind us. I think we are being followed.
- ☐ (in a shop) 'Can I help you?' 'No, thank you. I'm being served.'

*Past continuous*

*active:* was/were + (do)ing

Somebody was cleaning **the room** when I arrived.

*passive:* was/were + being (done)

**The room** was being cleaned when I arrived.

- ☐ There was somebody walking behind us. We were being followed.

## Exercises

## Unit 43

43.1 What do these words mean? Use it can ... or it can't ... . Use a dictionary if necessary.

If something is

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 washable, <u>it can be washed</u> . | 4 unusable, _____ .  |
| 2 unbreakable, it _____ .             | 5 invisible, _____ . |
| 3 edible, _____ .                     | 6 portable, _____ .  |

43.2 Complete these sentences with the following verbs (in the correct form):

arrest   carry   cause   ~~do~~   make   repair   ~~send~~   spend   wake up

Sometimes you need have (might have, should have etc.).

- The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.
- I haven't received the letter. It might have been sent to the wrong address.
- A decision will not \_\_\_\_\_ until the next meeting.
- Do you think that more money should \_\_\_\_\_ on education?
- This road is in very bad condition. It should \_\_\_\_\_ a long time ago.
- The injured man couldn't walk and had to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- It's not certain how the fire started, but it might \_\_\_\_\_ by an electrical fault.
- I told the hotel receptionist I wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ at 6.30 the next morning.
- If you hadn't pushed the policeman, you wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ .

43.3 Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using somebody or they etc., write a passive sentence.

- Somebody has cleaned the room. The room has been cleaned.
- They have postponed the meeting. The \_\_\_\_\_
- Somebody is using the computer at the moment.  
The computer \_\_\_\_\_
- I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation.  
I didn't realise that \_\_\_\_\_
- When we got to the stadium, we found that they had cancelled the game.  
When we got to the stadium, we found that \_\_\_\_\_
- They are building a new ring road round the city.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- They have built a new hospital near the airport.  
\_\_\_\_\_

43.4 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Sometimes the verb is active, sometimes passive.

- There's somebody behind us. (I think / we / follow) I think we're being followed.
- This room looks different. (you / paint / the walls?) Have you painted the walls?
- My car has disappeared. (it / steal!) It \_\_\_\_\_
- My umbrella has disappeared. (somebody / take) Somebody \_\_\_\_\_
- Sam gets a higher salary now. (he / promote) He \_\_\_\_\_
- Ann can't use her office at the moment. (it / redecorate) It \_\_\_\_\_
- The photocopier broke down yesterday, but now it's OK. (it / work / again ; it / repair)  
It \_\_\_\_\_ It \_\_\_\_\_
- When I went into the room, I saw that the table and chairs were not in the same place.  
(the furniture / move) The \_\_\_\_\_
- The man next door disappeared six months ago. (he / not / see / since then)  
He \_\_\_\_\_
- I wonder how Jane is these days. (I / not / see / for ages)  
I \_\_\_\_\_
- A friend of mine was mugged on his way home a few nights ago. (you / ever / mug?)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Passive 3

I was offered ... / we were given ... etc.

Some verbs can have two objects. For example, give:

- So it is possible to make two passive sentences:

- ❑ The police were given the information. *or*  
The information was given to the police.

Other verbs which can have two objects are:

ask offer pay show teach tell

When we use these verbs in the passive, most often we begin with the *person*:

- I was offered the job, but I refused it. (= they offered me the job)
- You will be given plenty of time to decide. (= we will give you plenty of time)
- Have you been shown the new machine? (= has anybody shown you?)
- The men were paid £400 to do the work. (= somebody paid the men £400)

I don't like being ...

The passive of doing/seeing etc. is being done / being seen etc. Compare:

*active:* I don't like people telling me what to do.

*passive:* I don't like being told what to do.

- ❑ I remember **being taken** to the zoo when I was a child.  
(= I remember somebody taking me to the zoo)
- ❑ Steve hates **being kept** waiting. (= he hates people keeping him waiting)
- ❑ We managed to climb over the wall without **being seen**. (= without anybody seeing us)

I was born ...

We say 'I was born ...' (not I am born):

- ☐ I was born in Chicago.  
☐ Where were you born? (*not* Where are you born?) } *past*

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- ☐ How many babies are born every day? *present*

Get

You can use **get** instead of **be** in the passive:

- ❑ There was a fight at the party, but nobody got hurt. (= nobody was hurt)
- ❑ I don't often get invited to parties. (= I'm not often invited)
- ❑ I'm surprised Liz **didn't** get offered the job. (= Liz **wasn't** offered the job)

You can use **get** only when things *happen*. For example, you cannot use **get** in the following sentences:

- ❑ Jill is liked by everybody. (*not* gets liked – this is not a ‘happening’)
- ❑ He was a mystery man. Very little was known about him. (*not* got known)

We use **get** mainly in informal spoken English. You can use **be** in all situations.

We also use **get** in the following expressions (which are not passive in meaning):

- get married, get divorced      get lost (= not know where you are)  
get dressed (= put on your clothes)      get changed (= change your clothes)

## Exercises

## Unit 44

44.1 Write these sentences in another way, beginning in the way shown.

- 1 They didn't give me the information I needed.  
I wasn't given the information I needed.
- 2 They asked me some difficult questions at the interview.  
I \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Linda's colleagues gave her a present when she retired.  
Linda \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Nobody told me about the meeting.  
I wasn't \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 How much will they pay you for your work?  
How much will you \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I think they should have offered Tom the job.  
I think Tom \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Has anybody shown you what to do?  
Have you \_\_\_\_\_

44.2 Complete the sentences using **being** + the following (in the correct form):

give invite ~~keep~~ knock down stick treat

- 1 Steve hates being kept waiting.
- 2 We went to the party without \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 I like giving presents and I also like \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- 4 It's a busy road and I don't like crossing it. I'm afraid of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 I'm an adult. I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ like a child.
- 6 You can't do anything about \_\_\_\_\_ in a traffic jam.

44.3 When were they born? Choose five of these people and write a sentence for each.

(Two of them were born in the same year.)

Beethoven	Galileo	Elvis Presley	1452	1869	1929
Agatha Christie	Mahatma Gandhi	Leonardo da Vinci	1564	1890	1935
<del>Walt Disney</del>	Martin Luther King	William Shakespeare	1770	1901	

- 1 Walt Disney was born in 1901.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 And you? I \_\_\_\_\_

44.4 Complete the sentences using **get/got** + the following verbs (in the correct form):

ask damage ~~hurt~~ pay steal sting stop use

- 1 There was a fight at the party, but nobody got hurt.
- 2 Alex \_\_\_\_\_ by a bee while he was sitting in the garden.
- 3 These tennis courts don't \_\_\_\_\_ very often. Not many people want to play.
- 4 I used to have a bicycle, but it \_\_\_\_\_ a few months ago.
- 5 Rachel works hard but doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ very much.
- 6 Last night I \_\_\_\_\_ by the police as I was driving home. One of the lights on my car wasn't working.
- 7 Please pack these things very carefully. I don't want them to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 People often want to know what my job is. I often \_\_\_\_\_ that question.