

The impersonal passive

To express other people's opinions in a formal style, we can use two special forms of the passive. They can be used with a number of verbs, including: *say, believe, think, claim, estimate*, etc. Some other verbs (*argue, suggest, calculate*, etc) are usually used with only the second structure.

Form noun + *is/are said to* + bare infinitive/perfect infinitive
 It is said that + clause

Active	Passive
People think he is a great chef.	He is thought to be a great chef. It is thought that he is a great chef.
People believe he was a great chef.	He is believed to have been a great chef. It is believed that he was a great chef.
People claim he has had an influence on many other chefs.	He is claimed to have had an influence on many other chefs. It is claimed that he has had an influence on many other chefs.
People say he has been making the best cheese in the area for over thirty years.	He is said to have been making the best cheese in the area for over thirty years. It is said that he has been making the best cheese in the area for over thirty years.
People estimated that his restaurant was worth over \$10 million.	His restaurant was estimated to be / to have been worth over \$10 million. It was estimated that his restaurant was worth over \$10 million.
People have suggested that he is a great chef.	It has been suggested that he is a great chef.

The causative

Form noun + *have/get* in the correct form + noun + past participle (+ *by/with* + noun)

Use	Example
To show that someone arranges for someone else to do something for them	<i>I have my groceries delivered by the supermarket once a week.</i> <i>We are having a new cooker put in tomorrow.</i> <i>We had a large wedding cake made.</i> <i>Have you had your kitchen decorated?</i> <i>We are going to have the food for the party made by a catering company.</i>
To refer to an unpleasant situation which hasn't been arranged	<i>We had our herb garden vandalised while we were away.</i> <i>The Smiths have had their new microwave stolen.</i>

Watch out!

- Using the verb *get* is usually more informal than using *have*.
✓ Can you go and **get** this recipe **photocopied** for me?
- We can also use *get somebody to do* and *have somebody do* when we want to refer to the person we arrange to do something for us.
✓ Why don't you **get the chef to prepare** you a vegetarian meal?
✓ Why don't you **have the chef prepare** you a vegetarian meal?

Direct and indirect objects

Some verbs can be followed by both a direct and an indirect object (usually a person). These verbs include:
bring, buy, get, give, lend, make, offer, owe, pass, promise, send, show, take, teach, tell, write, etc.

Active	Passive
We can put the indirect object either immediately after the verb, or at the end of the sentence with a preposition (<i>for/to</i> , etc). <i>A friend gave my sister this cookery book.</i> <i>A friend gave this cookery book to my sister.</i>	The subject of the sentence can be either the indirect object or the direct object of the active sentence. <i>My sister was given this cookery book by a friend.</i> <i>This cookery book was given to my sister by a friend.</i>