

● The passive / the causative / direct and indirect objects

The passive

Form	noun + be in the correct form + past participle (+ by/with + noun)	
	Active	Passive
present simple	<i>They grow bananas in tropical areas.</i>	<i>am/is/are + past participle Bananas are grown in tropical areas.</i>
present continuous	<i>They are redecorating the café.</i>	<i>am/is/are + -ing + past participle The café is being redecorated.</i>
present perfect simple	<i>Has anyone peeled the carrots?</i>	<i>has/have + been + past participle Have the carrots been peeled?</i>
past simple	<i>They served the meal in an elegant dining room.</i>	<i>was/were + past participle The meal was served in an elegant dining room.</i>
past continuous	<i>We asked for coffee while they were preparing the bill.</i>	<i>was/were + -ing + past participle We asked for coffee while the bill was being prepared.</i>
past perfect simple	<i>Someone had eaten all the food by the time I got there.</i>	<i>has + been + past participle All the food had been eaten by the time I got there.</i>
will future	<i>We will deliver your pizza in forty minutes.</i>	<i>will + be + past participle Your pizza will be delivered in forty minutes.</i>
be going to future	<i>Overweight customers are going to sue Burgerland.</i>	<i>is/are going to + be + past participle Burgerland is going to be sued by overweight customers.</i>
future perfect simple	<i>They will have harvested all the grapes by the end of September.</i>	<i>will + have + been + past participle All the grapes will have been harvested by the end of September.</i>
modal	<i>You should brush the chicken breast with oil and then fry it.</i>	<i>modal + be + past participle The chicken breast should be brushed with oil and then fried.</i>
modal + perfect infinitive	<i>They should have delivered the groceries by now.</i>	<i>modal + have + been + past participle The groceries should have been delivered by now.</i>
-ing (gerund)	<i>I don't like people telling me what to do in the kitchen.</i>	<i>being + past participle I don't like being told what to do in the kitchen.</i>

Use	Example
When we don't know who does/did something	<i>My groceries have been stolen!</i>
When it's obvious who does/did something	<i>A boy was arrested in town yesterday for stealing an apple.</i>
When it's not important who does/did something	<i>The French bistro is being knocked down.</i>
When we want to emphasise new information or use a formal style	<i>The potato was brought to Europe by Sir Walter Raleigh.</i>

Watch out!

- We do not normally use verbs in the passive in the present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous, future continuous or future perfect continuous tenses. Instead, we use a different phrase.
 - ✓ *The restaurant has been **under construction** for four years.*
 - ✗ *The restaurant ~~has been being built~~ for four years.*
 - ✓ *Dave has been **in training** as a chef for three years.*
 - ✗ *Dave ~~has been being trained~~ as a chef for three years.*
- We only normally use 'by' to say who did something when it is important information.
 - ✓ *Margarine was invented **by** a French chef.*
 - ✓ *The best pizzas are made **by** the Italians.*
 - ✗ *Waiter! This steak has been overcooked ~~by~~ someone.*
- We usually use 'with' when we talk about the thing used to do something.
 - ✓ *The soup should then be stirred **with** a spoon.*
 - ✗ *The soup should then be stirred ~~by~~ a spoon.*
- Some verbs are not normally used in the passive. They include intransitive verbs (without objects), such as *appear* and *die*, and some common transitive verbs, such as *have*, *let*, *lack*, etc.