

Passive and Causative

Form

- ❑ **Be + past participle** (of a transitive verb)
- ❑ In spoken English: **get ~ be**
- ❑ **Get + -ed** is more common with an active meaning similar to 'become' (*get dressed, get married*)

Reasons for Using Passive

□ Subject (**Agent**) **Action** **Result** (active)
Peter *scored* *the first goal.*

→ About *Peter*

Subject (**Result**) **Action** **Agent** (passive)
The first goal *was scored* *by Peter.*

→ About *The first goal*

Reasons for Using Passive

- ❑ The agent is **unknown** or **obvious**
 - ❑ *I **was born** in 1992.*
- ❑ The agent is '**people or things in general**'
 - ❑ *Some verbs **cannot be used** in the Continuous.*
- ❑ The agent is a **long** phrase
 - ❑ *Helen **was surprised** by all the messages of sympathy she received.*
- ❑ Avoiding inferences to ourselves and making a statement **impersonal** (to avoid personal involvement/responsibility)
 - ❑ *We **can't** possibly **complete** this work overnight.*
 - ❑ *This work **can't** possibly **be completed** overnight.*
- ❑ Avoiding '**you**' in orders and rules
 - ❑ *You must give in your application before the end of the week.*
 - ❑ *All application **must be given in** before the end of the week.*
- ❑ In factual writing when focus is on events, achievements, rather than agents
 - ❑ *Vaccination **had been pioneered** two hundred years earlier.*

GET instead of BE

- ❑ The action is unexpected, involuntary or unwelcome
*When he picked up the phone, we **got cut off**.*
- ❑ An achievement based on a previous effort
*She **got elected**.*
- ❑ An achievement in difficulty
*I finally **got admitted** to hospital.*

Stative Passive

- ❑ Passive form = existing state/situation
 - ❑ NO action occurring
 - ❑ NO agent
 - ❑ Past participle = adjective

*The door **is locked**.*

*Now the window **is broken**.*

*I **am interested** in art.*

*She **is satisfied** with the results.*

The Agents

- ❑ **Not mentioning** the agent

- ❑ Passive sentences: no interest in who/what performs the action
- ❑ Focus: the action itself, who/what is affected by the action, the result

*That window **has been broken** again.*

- ❑ **Mentioning** the agent

- ❑ When we think the information is important, when we want to say more about it

*I remember **being taken** to the fair by my father, who rarely showed any interest in such things.*

Verbs with Two Objects

- Verbs with two objects (a person and a thing) in the active usually have **two** passive forms.

1. My mom gave me some money.

→ *I was given some money.*

2. My mom gave some money to me.

→ *Some money was given to me.*

Verbs with Limited Uses in Passive

- ❑ **NO** intransitive verbs in passive
 - ❑ ~~*The Tasmanian tiger **was died out** early this century.*~~
- ❑ Some verbs, (*explain, suggest*) can't change the indirect object into the subject
 - ❑ ~~*He **was explained** the procedure.*~~
- ❑ Some verb phrases with two objects cannot be passive
 - ❑ *I **bear him no ill will.***
 - ❑ *Let me **wish you luck.***
- ❑ Some verbs are followed by two nouns, but the second is not an object.
 - ❑ *They declared **him President.***

Infinitive and –ing form passive

□ Active or passive?

- The subject is the agent, the sentence is active → an active infinitive
 - *I've got so many books **to return**.*
- The subject is not the agent → passive infinitive
 - *So many books have **to be returned**.*
- Active and passive infinitives with the same meaning with **there**
 - *There are many rooms **to paint** / **to be painted**.*
- Something/anything/nothing + to do
 - *There's **nothing to do** in the evening. (= we're bored)*
 - *I'm sorry, there's **nothing to be done**. (= there's no action anyone can take)*

Infinitive and –ing form passive

- Report verbs (*claim, mention, request, etc.*)

Impersonal passive constructions

- *It's **thought** by the press that the chairman earns too much.*
- *The chairman **is thought** by the press to earn too much.*
- *There **are thought to be** disagreements among senior ministers.*

They say that the old lady is over 100 years old.

They say that the old lady lived in the woods.

They said that the man kidnapped the old lady.

Infinitive and –ing form passive

- ❑ Passive –ing forms (**being** + **-ed**), perfect passive –ing forms (**having been** + **-ed**) used...
 - ❑ After verbs normally followed by –ing forms
 - *I love **being given** flowers.*
 - ❑ As participles, usually with the meaning of because
 - ***Being paid** monthly, I find annual bills hard to pay.*
 - ❑ As the subject of a sentence
 - ***Being proved** wrong is never a comfortable experience.*

Causatives - Structures

- ❑ Active
 - ❑ **GET sb to-Inf**
 - ❑ **HAVE sb Inf**
- ❑ Passive
 - ❑ **GET sth p.p.**
 - ❑ **HAVE sth p.p.**

Causatives - Uses

- ❑ We arrange for somebody to do something for us
 - ❑ *She goes to hospital and **has** her blood pressure **taken**.*
 - ❑ *She never managed to **get** her symphonies **played**.*
- ❑ Unfortunate experiences
 - ❑ *He **got** his leg **broken** playing football.*
 - ❑

Watch out!

- ❑ *We should get the car looked at **by** a professional.*
- ❑ *The engine is started **with** a special electronic card instead of a key.*
- ❑ *I'm frightened **of** driving on motorways.*
- ❑ *My car is covered **in** dirt.*

- ❑ **BY** + agent
- ❑ **WITH** + instruments/materials
- ❑ Past participles as adjectives + Other prepositions