

The passive (1)

The passive (present simple, past simple and will)

Use

We use the passive when we don't know who or what does the action, or when it isn't important.
After the car accident, Peter was arrested.
The space shuttle will be launched on 4th July.

We use the active when we know who or what does the action, and it's important.
After the car accident, the police arrested Peter.
NASA will launch the space shuttle on 4th July.

Form

We use the correct tense of the verb *be* + past participle.

These computers are made in Japan.
The telephone was invented by Alexander Bell.
The crime will be investigated by the police.

1 Underline the passive verbs. Then rewrite the sentences in the active.

A valuable painting was stolen from the Louvre last night.

Someone stole a valuable painting from the Louvre last night.

- The World Cup is watched by millions of football fans.
 Millions of football fans
- The film premiere will be attended by lots of stars.
 Lots of stars
- The first movie camera was invented by William Dickson in 1891.
 William Dickson
- The new Virgin Megastore will be opened by Robbie Williams.
 Robbie Williams

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the passive.

- The leather jacket (design) by a famous designer. It cost £3,500.
- The new *Boyzone* album (not release) until September.
- A lot of computer games (make) in Taiwan these days. Most of the games (export) to America and Europe.
- Madonna is a very popular singer. Every week millions of her CDs (sell) around the world.
- Romeo and Juliet* (perform) at the Globe Theatre next Saturday.

3 Complete the article with the correct form of the passive.

Stunts

Nowadays, action films are getting more and more spectacular. Many special effects **are added** (add) to make the action more realistic.

It's impossible to control the weather during filming. As a result, weather effects

¹..... often (create) for the film. For example, the winter scenes in *Young Sherlock Holmes* ²..... (not film) in winter, but in the middle of summer.

The snow ³..... (make) from polystyrene!

Car chases, high-speed crashes, or falls from high buildings ⁴..... (not play) by the stars themselves – they ⁵..... (do) by stuntmen. In *Volcano*, stuntmen ⁶..... (set on fire). However, the actors ⁷..... (protect) by several layers of special clothing, so nobody ⁸..... (injure).

In the future, many stunts ⁹..... (not need). Most effects ¹⁰..... (generate) by computer, so action films should be safer and easier to make.

The passive (2)

The passive (all tenses)

Use

We use the passive when we don't know who or what does the action, or when it isn't important.
My car was vandalised last week.

We use the active when we know who or what does the action, and it's important.
Two boys vandalised my car last week.

Form

We use the correct tense of the verb *be* + past participle.
The stolen painting had already been found.
The election will be held in two months.

1 Complete the newspaper extracts with the correct form of the passive.

Two climbers *have been rescued* (rescue) from the top of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. After eight hours in sub-zero temperatures, the climbers ¹..... (lift off) the mountain last night by helicopter. Today, both climbers ²..... (say) to be recovering well in hospital.

A man ³..... (hold) by police today in connection with the Gates robbery. Billionaire Phil Gates's \$10 million mansion ⁴..... (break into) a week ago and over \$5 million worth of goods ⁵..... (steal), including a valuable Picasso painting.

The nation's biggest football transfer fee ⁶..... (just / announce). Superstar Roberto ⁷..... (buy) by Manchester United for an amazing £10 million. His first match ⁸..... (play) against Real Madrid next month.

reporting verbs

Use

We use the passive with reporting verbs, e.g. *say, think, believe, claim, consider, expect, know, prove, suppose*, to talk about what is generally thought or said.

Form

We use the passive reporting verb + *to* + infinitive / perfect infinitive.
Crime is thought to be linked to poverty.
A poisonous snake was believed to have escaped from London Zoo.

2 Rewrite the sentences using the passive with reporting verbs.

They thought that he had robbed the bank.
He was thought to have robbed the bank.

1 People say that Michael Jordan is the best basketball player in the world.

Michael Jordan

2 Some people claimed that eating chocolate was good for your health.

Eating chocolate

3 Parents expect their children to work hard and pass their exams.

Children

4 Most people think that sky surfing is a dangerous sport.

Sky surfing

5 People considered that the rise in unemployment was the government's fault.

The rise in unemployment

6 Some people supposed that a woman had committed the crime.

The crime