THE PASSIVE

We form the passive with the verb TO BE + PAST PARTICIPLE of the main verb:

present simple: The parcels ARE DELIVERED

present continuous: The parcels ARE BEING DELIVERED

past simple: The parcels WERE DELIVERED

past continuous: The parcels WERE BEING DELIVERED
present perfect: The parcels HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

The parcels HAD BEEN DELIVERED

future perfect: The parcels WILL HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

can, must....: The parcels CAN / MUST/ SHOULD BE DELIVERED



THE USE

A When the person who carries out the action is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context or the action is more important than the person who carries it out.

"My wallet has been stolen" / "Coffee plants are grown in Latin America" / "My car was repaired"

It is often used to describe scientific processes

"The water is filtered before it is mixed with the chemicals"



CHANGING FROM ACTIVE INTO PASSIVE

- The object (direct or indirect) of the active sentence becomes the subject.
- ♣ The active verb remains in the same tense but in a passive form (be + past participle)
- The subject of the active sentence becomes the agent and it is introduced by the preposition "by" if it gives necessary information. (OBJECT PRONOUNS will be needed: "by her", "him", "us", "them"...)

"My mum made a cake""A cake was made by my mum"

"Someone has stolen my wallet"....."My wallet has been stolen"

With verbs which take two objects (bring, tell, send, teach, sell....) we can make two different passive sentences:

"He showed me a map"....."A map was shown to me" / "I was shown a map"

▲ Don't forget prepositions!

"They looked after the kids"....."The kids were looked after" / Who was it written BY?10

A) TURN THESE SENTENCES FROM ACTIVE INTO PASSIVE:

1 She's renewing her passport next week HER PASSPORT IS BEING RENEWED NEXT WEEK.

2 The police have not investigated the theft yet THE THEFT HAS NOT BEEN INVESTIGATED YET

3 They will collect the bottles for recycling THE BOTTLES WILL BE COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING

4 He was milking the cows when I arrived THE COWS WERE BEING MILKED ...

B) COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS:

- 1 All the robbers will BE ARRESTED TOMORROW arrest) tomorrow
- 2 His house is going TO BE PAINTED paint) next week
- 3 Cars may BE PARKED (park) here free of charge
- 4 She hates BEING TREATED (treat) like a baby
- 5 I can't stand BEING IGNORED (ignore)
- 6 You ARE NOT ALLOWED (allow) to smoke inside or outside public buildings in the USA.
- 7 The work HAS NOT BEEN FINISHED (not finish) yet
- 8 "Where is your car?" "At the garage. It IS BEING REPAIRED (repair) right now."
- 9 Sumatra HAS BEEN HIT / IS BEING HIT (hit) by a powerful earthquake!
- 10 10-year-old Martin Witts, who WAS RESCUED rescue) from a fire last week, HAS JUST BEEN DISCHARGED (just / discharge) from hospital.