

# The Passive Voice

- We use an **ACTIVE** verb to say what the subject does.  
Somebody **built** this house in 1978



- We use a **PASSIVE** verb to say what happened to the subject.  
This house **was built** in 1978



## FORM

ACTIVE

SUBJECT

VERB

OBJECT

The company **employs** a lot of people

PASSIVE

SUBJECT

TO BE

PARTICIPLE

BY - AGENT

A lot of people **are employed** by the company

## VERB CHANGES

### ACTIVE

#### PRESENT SIMPLE

The resource centre **keeps** audio and video tapes

#### PRESENT CONTINUOUS

They **are repairing** our car at the moment

#### PAST SIMPLE

They **delivered** the parcel right on time

#### PAST CONTINUOUS

A tall man with a moustache **was chasing** me

#### PRESENT PERFECT

Somebody **has cleaned** the room

#### PAST PERFECT

I **had cooked** the vegetables for too long

#### FUTURE "BE GOING TO"

Janet **is going to mend** the TV

#### FUTURE "WILL"

The Smiths **will redecorate** our house

#### MODAL VERBS

We **must wash** the dishes before we go

### PASSIVE

#### (AM / IS / ARE) + PARTICIPLE

Audio and video tapes **are kept** by the resource area

#### (AM / IS / ARE) + BEING + PARTICIPLE

Our car **is being repaired** at the moment

#### (WAS / WERE) + PARTICIPLE

The parcel **was delivered** right on time

#### (WAS / WERE) + BEING + PARTICIPLE

I **was being chased** by a tall man with a moustache

#### (HAVE / HAVE) + BEEN + PARTICIPLE

The room **has been cleaned**

#### HAD + BEEN + PARTICIPLE

The vegetables **had been cooked** by too long

#### (AM / IS / ARE) + GOING TO BE + PARTICIPLE

The TV **is going to be ment** by Janet

#### WILL BE + PARTICIPLE

Our house **will be redecorated** by the Smiths

#### (MODAL VERB) + BE + PARTICIPLE

The dishes **must be washed** before we go

## SENTENCES WITH TWO OBJECTS (DIRECT / INDIRECT)

ACTIVE



Carol **gave** me a new CD

PASSIVE



A new CD **was given** to me by Carol

DIR. OBJ. + PASSIVE VERB + TO + IND. OBJ.



I **was given** a new CD by Carol

IND. OBJ. + PASSIVE VERB + DIR. OBJ.

- When we are interested in the agent we use the preposition BY

A new Japanese company **designed** the games

The games **were designed** by a new Japanese company

- The agent complement is not used when it is (a pronoun, indefinite, obvious)

He **won** the match

The match **was won** (by him)

1. They will hold the prize giving in the hall.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. They were cleaning the room when I arrived.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. We should abolish such laws.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. They have found the missing child.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The teacher is giving a lot of homework to the students.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When did he deliver the goods?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. They publish many new books every year.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why didn't they tell me earlier?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. You must tell him before he leaves.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. She should do it as soon as possible.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Nobody has told me where to go.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. They were repairing it when I arrived.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. They have already signed the contract.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. I must sharpen the knives.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. I wrote the letter in French.  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. How often do you water the plants?  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. They sent an invitation to every member.  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. Did the explosion frighten you?  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. Thieves robbed a woman.  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. We haven't used this machine for years.  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. They are testing the new drug.  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. We are going to buy a new car next month.  
\_\_\_\_\_
23. She had already read that book twice.  
\_\_\_\_\_
24. Two different teachers have marked the exams.  
\_\_\_\_\_
25. A police car is following that green van.  
\_\_\_\_\_