



Passive 1 (is done / was done)

Study the example

This house **was built** in 1981.

'This house **was built**' is *passive*.

Compare active and passive:

Somebody **built** **this house** in 1981. (*active*)
subject object

This house **was built** in 1981. (*passive*)
subject



My bike was stolen (*Passive*)
Someone stole my bike (*Active*)

How we make the passive

We make the passive using the verb *be* + past participle. We start the sentence with the object.

Avatar	<i>was</i>	<i>directed by James Cameron.</i>
↓	↓	↓
Object	+ <i>be</i> +	past participle

When we use the passive, who or what causes the action is often unknown or unimportant:

- A lot of money **was stolen** in the robbery. (somebody stole it, but we don't know who)
- Is** this room **cleaned** every day? (does somebody clean it? – it's not important who)

If we want to say who does or what causes the action, we use **by**:

- This house was built **by my grandfather**.
- Two hundred people are employed **by the company**.

The passive is **be (is/was etc.) + past participle (done/cleaned/seen etc.)**:

(be) done **(be) cleaned** **(be) damaged** **(be) built** **(be) seen** etc.

The *past participle* often ends in **-ed** (cleaned/damaged etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**built/done/stolen** etc.). See Appendix 1.

Compare active and passive, *present simple* and *past simple*:

Present simple

active: **clean(s) / see(s)** etc.

Somebody **cleans** **this room** every day.

passive: **am/is/are + cleaned/seen** etc.

This room **is cleaned** every day.

- Many accidents **are caused** by careless driving.
- I'm **not invited** to parties very often.
- How **is** this word **pronounced**?

Past simple

active: **cleaned/saw** etc.

Somebody **cleaned** **this room** yesterday.

passive: **was/were + cleaned/seen** etc.

This room **was cleaned** yesterday.

- We **were woken** up by a loud noise during the night.
- 'Did you go to the party?' 'No, I **wasn't invited**.'
- How much money **was stolen** in the robbery?

Tense	Example	Structure
Present simple	<i>Alioli is made from oil, garlic and salt.</i>	<i>is/are + past participle</i>
Present continuous	<i>The hall is being painted this week.</i>	<i>is/are being + past participi</i>
Past simple	<i>John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.</i>	<i>was/were + past participle</i>
Past continuous	<i>The signs were being put up last week.</i>	<i>was/were being + past participle</i>
Present perfect	<i>Oranges have been grown here for centuries.</i>	<i>has/have been + past participle</i>
Past perfect	<i>When he got home, he found that his flat had been burgled.</i>	<i>had been + past participle</i>
Future simple	<i>The work will be finished next week.</i>	<i>will be + past participle</i>

DID YOU KNOW...?

- 1 The country with the smallest film industry is Iceland, where only three films are made every year. (make)
- 2 More than 26,000 costumes _____ in the 1963 film *Cleopatra*. (use)
- 3 In the near future more films _____ on computers than at the cinema. (see)
- 4 The most filmed character is Sherlock Holmes. Until now, more than 200 different films _____ about him. (make)
- 5 Spielberg's film *The Color Purple* _____ for 11 Oscars in 1985, but didn't win any. (nominate)
- 6 Macaulay Culkin _____ \$4.5 million dollars for his role in *Home Alone* in 1990. (pay) This was a record for a child at the time.
- 7 The director Stanley Kubrick died while his film *Artificial Intelligence* _____ (make). Spielberg _____ to finish the film. (ask)
- 8 When the actress Marilyn Monroe died of a drugs overdose in 1962, many people believed that she _____ by the CIA. (murder)
- 9 Over 300,000 extras _____ for the crowd scenes in the film *Gandhi*. (use)
- 10 At this very moment, thousands of films _____ all over the world. (make)

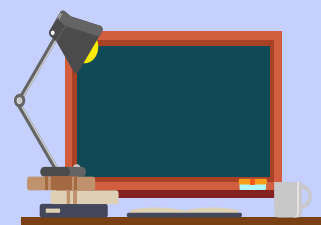
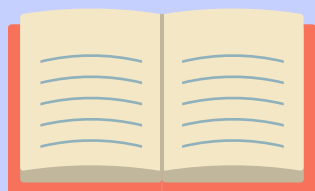


Put the verb into the correct form, present or past, active or passive.

- 1 a Two hundred people are employed (employ) by the company.
b The company employs (employ) 200 people.
- 2 a Water covers (cover) most of the earth's surface.
b How much of the earth's surface is covered (cover) by water?
- 3 a While I was on holiday, my camera was stolen (steal) from my hotel room.
b While I was on holiday, my camera disappeared (disappear) from my hotel room.
- 4 a Robert's parents died (die) when he was very young.
b Robert and his sister were brought up (bring up) by their grandparents.
- 5 a The boat hit a rock and sank (sink) quickly.
b Fortunately everybody was rescued (rescue).
- 6 a Bill was fired (fire) from his job. He wasn't very good at it.
b Sue resigned (resign) from her job because she didn't enjoy it any more.
- 7 a It can be noisy living here, but it doesn't bother (not / bother) me.
b It can be noisy living here, but I am bothered (not / bother) by it.
- 8 a Maria had an accident. She knocked off (knock) off her bike.
b Maria had an accident. She fell off (fall) off her bike.
- 9 a I haven't seen these flowers before. What are they called (they / call)?
b I haven't seen these flowers before. What do you call (you / call) them?

Instead of using somebody, they, people etc., write a passive sentence.

- 1 Somebody cleans the room every day. The room is cleaned every day
- 2 They cancelled all flights because of fog. All flights were cancelled
- 3 Somebody accused me of stealing money. I was accused of stealing money.
- 4 How do you use this word? How is this word used?
- 5 The price includes all taxes. All taxes are included in the price.
- 6 People warned us not to go out alone. We were warned
- 7 We don't use this office any more. This office is not used
- 8 They invited five hundred people to the wedding. Five hundred people were invited



Complete the sentences. Use these verbs in the correct form, present or past:

cause damage find hold injure invite
make overtake own send show surround

- 1 Many accidents are caused by careless driving.
- 2 Cheese is made from milk.
- 3 The roof of the building was damaged in a storm a few days ago.
- 4 A cinema is a place where films are shown.
- 5 You were invited to the party. Why didn't you go?
- 6 This plant is very rare. It is found in very few places.
- 7 Although we were driving fast, we were overtaken by a lot of other cars.
- 8 In the US, elections for president are held every four years.
- 9 There was an accident last night, but fortunately nobody was injured.
- 10 You can't see the house from the road. It is surrounded by trees.
- 11 I never received the letter. It was sent to the wrong address.
- 12 The company I work for is owned by a much larger company.