Chapter 5
Passive Voice

Learning English for non-native speakers, like Thais, the learners have to master how to form passive sentences correctly. Very often we, Thais, use passive less than active sentences because passive sentences can both convey positive and negative meanings though the structure patterns look the same such as “He was hit by the car,” which can be translated into Thai as เขาถูกรถชน whereas, “The governor was invited to preside over the festival,” which can be translated into Thai as ผู้ว่าราชการได้รับเชิญมาเป็นประธานในงานฉลองเทศกาล.

Therefore, Thai students need to practice it with both spoken and written English.


Read the following passage and then find passive sentences.

Buffalo Car Manufacturing Company was actually the second company located in Buffalo, New York, to be known as Buffalo Car Works. The earlier company was founded in 1853; by 1856, its plant on land between the New York Central Railroad’s mainline through Buffalo and the Niagara River encompassed 15 buildings.

The newer company was founded as Buffalo Car Company in 1872 and merged with Niagara Car Wheel Company in 1890. The consolidated company became known as Buffalo Car Manufacturing Company and entered into a business relationship with Union Car Company, based in Depew, New York. Buffalo and Union were both operated independently for the next decade despite their business relationship and their manufacturing shops being located in relatively close proximity to each other.

In 1895, Buffalo was awarded a contract, valued at $900,000, from New York Central Railroad to build its most expensive freight cars to date with an order for 1,500 boxcars.
Buffalo was awarded another lucrative contract in 1898 to build 500 hopper cars for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway; although the cars included drop doors to unload the cars through the floor, the cars were intended to be used in conjunction with a car dumper that would unload the car through end doors directly into the hold of a coal-fired ship.²¹

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

From the paragraphs above, there are many passive sentences such as “The earlier was founded in 1853, The newer company was founded as Buffalo Car Company in 1872 and merged with Niagara Car Wheel Company in 1890. The consolidated company became known as Buffalo Car Manufacturing Company and entered into a business relationship with Union Car Company, based in Depew, New York, etc.”

Choice of voice (active or passive) is one of several ways of organizing the content of clauses. The active voice is the most frequent form typically chosen to state something about the agent or an action (i.e. who does what). The agent is expressed as the grammatical subject and normally initiates the action (Carter & McCarthy, 2006):

Ken took that photograph.

Ken is here the grammatical subject and also the agent of the action. Ken is also the starting point or theme of the message. Took that photograph is the rheme; it describes the action, what the speaker wants to say about Ken.

If a passive voice is chosen, the starting point of the message is the person or thing that is the affected participant of the action:

Those houses were built by John Walton.

Here those are the starting point or theme of the message. Those houses become the grammatical subject of the clause. What is said about the houses here includes information about the agent (the person who built them, John Walton). In this case the agent is expressed in the prepositional phrase by John Walton.

How about learning how the passive is formed first, then we can go to the use of the passive.
1. The passive: form

The active voice shows what someone or something does. The passive voice shows what happens to something. We make the passive with a form of the verb be + past participle (Beaumont & Granger, 1998, Vince, 2003, Carter & McCarthy, 2006, Coe, Harrison & Paterson, 2006, Cullen, & Hopkins, 2007).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Passive form: be + past participle (+ by+ agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>present simple</td>
<td>is/am/are/ + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The union <strong>is run</strong> by 7 executive officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present continuous</td>
<td>is/am/are + being + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The house <strong>is being painted</strong> at the moment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past simple</td>
<td>was/were + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My car <strong>was stolen</strong> last night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past continuous</td>
<td>was/were + being + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The bridges <strong>were being repaired</strong> last week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present perfect</td>
<td>has/have + been + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah <strong>has been invited</strong> to the party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past perfect</td>
<td>had + been + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I thought that you <strong>had been told</strong> the news.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other forms</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infinitive</td>
<td>The union <strong>is to be run</strong> by 7 executive officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ing form</td>
<td>The university insists on the union <strong>being run</strong> by 7 executive officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>used to</td>
<td>The university <strong>used to be run</strong> by 7 executive officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modals</td>
<td>The university <strong>should be run</strong> by 7 executive officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>need to/have to</td>
<td>The university <strong>needs to/has to be run</strong> by 7 executive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The university needs running by 7 executive officers.

NB. We do not use the passive with intransitive verbs (verbs which cannot have an object).

2. The passive: use

We use the passive as follows:

- when the object is more important than the subject and the agent is either obvious, not important, or unknown:

  All applications are processed on the spot. (It is obvious that it is the library staff who process the cards).

- in formal writing to make it less personal:

  You are advised to return the application form within three days. (impersonal)

  The active voice is more direct and personal:

  I advise you to return the application form within three days.

- when we describe a process:

  The union is run by seven executive officers who are elected by students.

  We do not generally use the passive for natural (or biological) process, where people are not involved (e.g. the carbon cycle):

  Plants take up carbon dioxide from the air as part of photosynthesis.

- spoken and written

  The passive is used more in writing and formal speech.

- using by and with: The person or organization that does the action is called “the agent”. If we want to say who does the action then we use by:

  Hundreds of houses were built last year.

  Hundreds of houses were built by the Government last year.
A lot of stones were thrown.

A lot of stones were thrown by angry football fans.

- the thing that is used to perform an action is called “the instrument”. If we want to include this we use with.

The windows were broken with a baseball bat.

- passive without an agent phrase

It is not always necessary to mention the agent. There are several reasons for this:

- **Agent not known**: Brenda’s motorbike was stolen last night.

  If we knew who had stolen it, we would mention the name of the person. But we don’t know and the agent is not mentioned.

- **Agent obvious**: One protester was arrested.

  It is not necessary to add the words “by the police”, because we know that it is always the police who do this. However, it is possible to add these words if we want to.

- **Agent unimportant**: A lot of English grammar books are sold every year.

  Exactly who sells the books is not important. If it was important we could use by and the names of the people or shops who sell the books.

3. Reporting with passive verbs

   With reporting verbs and verbs of thinking or feeling we can use

   - it + passive verb + that (e.g. agree, announce, argue, believe, claim, decide, disclose, expect, feel, hope, know, predict, recognize, report, say, suggest, think, understand):

     **It was felt that** the facilities were in need or renovation.

   - Subject + passive verb + to-infinitive (e.g. ask, believe, consider, estimate, expect, feel, know, mean, report, say, see, suppose, think, understand):

     **Our sport facilities are said to be** among the best in the country. (= people say our sports facilities are among the best in the country)

     **This building is believed to be** the oldest in the town.
Vince (2008) also points out that this type of passive is also called “hearsay reporting.” He describes that hearsay reports describe what people say, report, believe, think, consider, know, etc, and are often used in news reporting. They are introduced by a passive form of the report verb, either in present simple or past simple from with a to-infinitive. The report can refer to the present, or past, or a time before the time of reporting.

**Present verb, present reference**
We use a present reporting verb and refer to a state or action in the present:

*passive* present infinitive

The patient is said to be as well as can be expected.
(That’s what people say now about the present situation.)

**Present verb, past reference**
We use a present reporting verb and refer to a state or action in the past:

Passive past infinitive

The robbers are thought to have stolen more than $3 million.
(That’s what people say now about the past situation.)

**Past verb, reference to time of reporting**
We use a past reporting verb and refer to a state or action at a time the report was made.

Past simple passive present infinitive

Last week, the Prime Minister was said to be undecided.
(That’s what people said then about the situation then.)

**Past verb, reference before time of reporting**
We use a past reporting verb and refer to a state or action at the time before the report was made.

Passive simple passive past infinitive

Mr. Smith was believed to have taken the car by mistake.
(That’s what people said then about something that had happened earlier.)

**Continuous forms**
Continuous infinitive forms are also possible.

The escaped men are believed to have been wearing prison clothes.

The injured man is thought to have been trying to climb the cliff.

**Passive infinitives**

Hearsay report expressions can also be followed by passive infinitives:

There are a number of diseases which are known to be caused by poor hygiene.

The men are said to have been recaptured.

At the time of the wreck, the diamonds were thought to have been lost.

**Passive participles**

- These can be used with report verbs like appreciate, deny, enjoy, remember etc.

  I appreciated being met at the airport.

  Mr. Archwood denied having been convicted of any crime.

- Note that there may be no difference between using past and present participles:

  He denied being there. He denied having been there.

4. **Have something done**

To show that someone performs a paid service for us we use have + object + past participle:

You’ll need to have your photo taken. (=someone else will take your photograph)

In informal English get + past participle can be used in the same way:

I got my photo taken yesterday.

This kind of construction is called pseudo-passive (Carter & McCarthy, 2006).

Get-pseudo-passives and have pseudo-passives can often both be used to express causative and non-causative meanings. The have-passive is more formal than the get passive:
We got our car radio stolen twice on holiday.
(or: We had our car radio stolen twice on holiday.)

I have my hair done about once a month.
(or: I get my hair done about once a month.)

5. Need + -ing

We can sometimes use need + -ing as an alternative to the passive to say that it is necessary to do something without stating who will do it:

Some facilities need improving around the campus. (=it is necessary to improve some facilities)

In addition, Carter & McCarthy (200) point out that beside “need”, there are some more verbs: deserve, require, want can be followed by an active-ing form structure although the grammatical subject is the affected participant of the process denoted by the verb, thus creating a meaning similar to a passive voice structure:

The picture’s dark, very dark. It needs restoring.
(similar to: It should be restored.)

Your jacket wants cleaning.
(similar to: It should be cleaned.)

Here are more rules about passive you should know:
Indirect Objects as Passive Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.O.</th>
<th>D.O.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Someone gave Mrs. Lee an award.</td>
<td>(b) Mrs. Lee was given an award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Someone gave an award to Mrs. Lee.</td>
<td>(d) An award was given to Mrs. Lee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I.O. = indirect object; D.O. = direct object
Either an indirect object or a direct object may become the subject of a passive sentence.
(a), (b), (c), and (d) have the same meaning.

Notice in (d): When the direct object becomes the subject, to is usually kept in front of the indirect object.*

*The omission of to is more common in British English than American English: An award was given Mrs. Lee.

Stative Passive

| (a) The door is old. | In (a) and (b): **old** and **green** are adjectives. They describe the door. In (c): **locked** is a past participle. It is used as an adjective. It described the door. |
| (b) The door is green. | |
| (c) The door is locked. | |
| (d) I locked the door five minutes ago. | When the passive form is used to describe an existing situation or state, as in (c), (f), and (i), it is called the “stative passive.” In the stative passive: |
| (e) The door was locked by me minutes ago. | ● no action is taking place; the action happened earlier. |
| (f) Now the door is locked. | ● there is no by-phrase. |
| (g) Ann broke the window yesterday. | ● the past participle functions as an adjective. |
| (h) The window was broken by Ann. | |
| (i) Now the window is broken. | |
| (j) I am interested in Chinese art. | Prepositions other than by can follow stative passive verbs. |
| (k) He is satisfied with his job. | |
| (l) Ann is married to Alex. | |
| (m) I don’t know where I am. I am lost. | (m) through (p) are examples of idiomatic usage of the passive form in common, everyday English. These sentences have no equivalent active sentences. |
| (n) I can’t find my purse. It is gone. | |
| (o) I am finished with my work. | |
| (p) I am done with my work. | |

Common Stative Passive Verbs + Prepositions

| (a) I’m interested **in** Greek culture. | Many stative passive verbs are followed |
He’s worried about losing his job.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Stative Passive Verbs + Prepositions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be accustomed to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be acquainted with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be addicted to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be annoyed with, by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be associated with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be bored with, by</td>
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<tr>
<td>be clustered with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be composed of</td>
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<tr>
<td>be concerned about</td>
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<tr>
<td>be connected to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be coordinated with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be covered with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be crowded with</td>
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<td>be dedicated to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be devoted to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be disappointed in, with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be discriminated against</td>
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<tr>
<td>be divorced from</td>
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<tr>
<td>be done with</td>
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<td>be dressed in</td>
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<td>be engaged to</td>
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<td>be equipped with</td>
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<td>be excited about</td>
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<td>be exhausted from</td>
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<td>be exposed to</td>
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<td>be filled with</td>
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<td>be finished with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be frightened of, by</td>
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<tr>
<td>be gone from</td>
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<tr>
<td>be interested in</td>
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<tr>
<td>be involved in</td>
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<tr>
<td>be known for</td>
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<tr>
<td>be limited to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be located in</td>
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<tr>
<td>be made of</td>
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<tr>
<td>be married to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be opposed to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be pleased with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be prepared for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be protected from</td>
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<tr>
<td>be provided with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be qualified for</td>
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<tr>
<td>be related to</td>
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<tr>
<td>be remembered for</td>
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<tr>
<td>be satisfied with</td>
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<tr>
<td>be scared of, by</td>
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<tr>
<td>be terrified of, by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be tired of, from</td>
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<tr>
<td>be worried about</td>
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Conclusion: As you can see that passive voice is not that difficult for you to understand.

Actually, first you have to know the form: to be + past participle, then you have to know how to use it properly since there are some underlying rules that you have to know and understand. What you need to do is that you need more practice since practice makes a better understanding.

Exercises

Exercise 1. Forming the passive.
Directions: Change the active to passive.

Example: Shakespeare wrote that play. The play was written by Shakespeare.

1. Waiters and waitresses *serve* customers.
2. The teacher is going to *explain* the lesson.
3. Shirley has suggested a new idea.
4. Bill will invite Ann to the party.
5. Alex is preparing that report.
6. Two horses were pulling the farmer’s wagon.
7. Kathy had returned the book to the library.
8. By this time tomorrow, the president will have made the announcement.
9. I didn’t write that note. Jim wrote it.
10. Alice didn’t make that pie. Did Mrs. French make it?
11. Does Prof. Jackson teach that course? I know that Prof. Adams doesn’t teach it.
12. Mrs. Andrews hasn’t signed those papers yet. Has Mr. Andrews signed them yet?
13. Is Mr. Brown painting your house?
14. His tricks won’t fool me.
15. The teacher is going to collect our papers.

Exercise 2: Forming the passive.

Directions: Change the active to passive if possible. Some verbs are intransitive and cannot be changed.

1. A strange thing happened yesterday. (no change)
2. Jack scored the winning goal.
3. My cat died.
4. I agreed with Dr. Ikeda’s theory.
5. Dr. Ikeda developed that theory.
6. Timmy dropped the cup.
7. The cup fell to the floor.
8. The assistant manager interviewed me.
10. A hurricane destroyed the small fishing village.
11. Dinosaurs existed millions of years ago.
12. A large vase stands in the corner of our front hallway.
13. The children seemed happy when they went to the zoo.
14. After class, one of the students always erases the chalkboard.
15. The solution to my problem appeared to me in a dream.
16. Lightning didn’t cause the fire.
17. A special committee is going to settle the dispute.
18. Did the army surround the enemy?
19. What happened in class yesterday?
20. The Persians invented windmills around 1500 years ago.

Exercise 3: Using the passive.

Directions: Discuss why the use of the passive is appropriate in the sentences. For purposes of comparison, form passive active equivalents, and discuss probable reasons why the speakers/writers would choose to use the passive.

1. My sweater was made in England.
2. The new highway will be completed sometime next month.
3. Language skills are taught in every school in the country.
4. Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony was performed at the corner last night.
5. The World Cup soccer games are being televised all over the world this year.
6. This composition was written by Ali. That one was written by Yoko.
7. The Washington Monument is visited by hundreds of people every day.
8. Bananas originated in Asia but now are grown in the tropics of both hemispheres of the world. They were introduced to the Americas in 1516.
9. Ink has been used for writing and drawing throughout history. No one knows when
the first ink was developed. The ancient Egyptians and Chinese made ink from various natural substances, such as berries, soot, and tree bark. Through the centuries, thousands of different formulas have been developed for ink. Most ink today is made from synthetic chemicals.

10. The chief writing material of ancient times was papyrus. It was used in Egypt, Greece, and other Mediterranean lands. Parchment, another writing material that was widely used in ancient times, was made from the skins of animals such as sheep and goats. After the hair had been removed, the skins were stretched and rubbed smooth so that they could be written on. Paper, the main writing material today, was invented by the Chinese.

Exercise 4. Using the passive.

Directions: Change the active sentences to passive sentences if possible. (Some of the verbs are intransitive and cannot be changed.) Keep the same tense. Include the by-phrase only if necessity.

1. People grow corn in Iowa.
2. Peter came here two months ago. (no change)
3. Someone made this antique table in 1734.
4. An accident happened at the corner of Fifth and Main.
5. Someone stole my purse.
6. Someone was making the coffee when I walked into the kitchen.
7. Translators have translated that book into many languages.
8. Jim’s daughter drew that picture. My son drew this picture.
9. The judges will judge the applicants on the basis of their originality.
10. My sister’s plane will arrive at 10:35.
11. Is Professor Rivers teaching that course this semester?
12. When did someone invent the radio?
13. The mail carrier had already delivered the mail by the time I left for school this
morning.

14. When is someone going to announce the results of the contest?

15. After the concert was over, hundreds of fans mobbed the rock music star outside the theater.

Exercise 5: Indirect objects as passive subjects.

Directions: Find the indirect object in each sentence and make it the focus of attention by using it as the subject of a passive sentence. Use the by-phrase only if necessary.

1. Someone handed Ann a menu at the restaurant.
   (indirect object = Ann) Ann was handed a menu at the restaurant.

2. Indiana University has awarded Peggy a scholarship.

3. Some company paid Fred three hundred dollars in consulting fees for a job he did last week.

4. Someone has given Maria a promotion at her job as a computer programmer at Microsoft.

5. They will send you a bill at the end of the month.

6. Someone will give the starving people a week’s supply of rice as soon as the food supplies arrive in the famine-stricken area.

Exercise 6: Using the passive.

Directions: Change active to passive. Work in pairs, in groups, or as a class.

Example: Speaker A (book open): Someone built that house ten years ago.

Speaker B (book closed): That house was built ten years ago.

1. Someone invited you to the a party.

2. People grow rice in many countries.

3. Someone is televising the game.

4. Teachers teach reading in the first grade.

5. Someone told you to be here at ten.
6. Someone made that hat in Mexico.
7. Someone is going to serve dinner at six.
8. Someone will announce the news tomorrow.
9. Someone has made a mistake.
10. The teacher is giving a test in the next room right now.

**Exercise 7: Using the passive.**

**Directions:** Use the words in the list to complete these passive sentences. Use any appropriate tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>build</th>
<th>frighten</th>
<th>report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cause</td>
<td>invent</td>
<td>spell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confuse</td>
<td>kill</td>
<td>surprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>divide</td>
<td>offer</td>
<td>surround</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expect</td>
<td>order</td>
<td>wear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The electric light bulb was invented by Thomas Edison.
2. An island……………………………by water.
3. The –ing form of “sit”………………………with a double t.
4. Even thought construction costs are high, a new dormitory………………..next year.
5. The class was too large, so it………………………into two sections.
6. A bracelet…………………………around the wrist.
7. The Johnsons’ house burned down. According to the inspector, the fire……………..by lightning.
8. Al got a ticket for reckless driving. When he went to traffic court, he……………to pay a large fine.
9. I read abut a hunter who………………accidentally……………..by another hunter.
10. The hunter’s fatal accident…………………….in the newspaper yesterday.
11. I didn’t expect Lisa to come to the meeting last night, but she was there. I………..
………………….to see her.

12. Last week I………………………..a job at a local back, but I didn’t accept it.

13. The children………………..in the middle of the night when they heard strange
noises in the house.

14. Could you explain this math problem to me? Yesterday in class I………………
…………………by the teacher’s explanation.

15. A: Is the plane going to be late?
   B: No. It………………………..to be on time.

Exercise 8: Using the passive.

Directions: Use either active or passive, in any appropriate tense, for the verbs in
parentheses.

1. The Amazon valley is extremely important to the ecology of the earth. Forty
   percent of the world’s oxygen (produce)……………………there.

2. Right now Roberto is in the hospital. He (treat)……………………..for a bad
   burn on his hand and arm.

3. The game (win, probably) ………………………by the other team
   tomorrow. They’re a lot better than we are.

4. There was a terrible accident on a busy downtown street yesterday. Dozen of
   people (see)……………………….it, including my friend, who (interview)…………
   …………………by the police.

5. In my country, certain prices, such as the price of medical supplies, (control)……
   …………………by the government. Other prices (determine)………………….by
   how much consumers are willing to pay for a product.

6. Yesterday a purse-snatcher (catch)…………………….by a dog. While the thief
   (chase)………………………………by the police, he (jump)………………….over a
   fence into someone’s yard, where he encountered a ferocious dog. The dog
(keep)…………………………the thief from escaping.

7. The first fish (appear)…………………on the earth about 500 million years ago.

Up to now, more than 20,000 kinds of fish (name)…………………
(describe)…………………………by scientists. New species (discover)………………
…………………………every year, so the total increases continually.

8. Richard Anderson is a former astronaut. Several years ago, when he was 52,
Anderson (inform)…………………………by his superior at an aircraft corporation
that he could no longer be a test pilot. He (tell)…………………………that he was being
relieved of his duties because of his age. Anderson took the corporation to court for
age discrimination.

9. Frostbite may occur when the skin (expose)…………………to extreme cold. It
most frequently (affect)…………………………the skin of the cheeks, chin, ears,
fingers, nose, and toes.

10. In 1877, a network of lines (discover)…………………..on the surface of Mars by
an Italian astronomer, Ciovanni Schiaparelli. The astronomer (call)………………
………………these lines “channels,” but when the Italian word (translate)………………
………………into English, it became “canals.” As a result, some people thought
the lines were waterways that (build)…………………..by some unknown
creatures. We now know that the lines are not really canals. Canals (exist, not)………………
………………………..on Mars.

Exercise 9: Passive modals.

Directions: Complete the sentences with the given words, active or passive.

1. James (should + tell) should be told the news as soon as possible.

2. Someone (should + tell) should tell James the news immediately.

3. James (should + tell) should have been told the news a long time ago.

4. Meat (must + keep)…………………………….in the refrigerator or it will spoil.

5. You (must + keep) …………………………meat in a refrigerator or it will spoil.
6. We tried, but the window (couldn’t + open)…………………. It was painted shut.

7. I tried, but I (couldn’t + open)…………………..the window.

8. Good news! I (may + offer)…………………..a job soon. I had an interview at an engineering firm yesterday.

9. Chris has good news. The engineering firm where she had an interview yesterday (may + offer) ………………..her a job soon.

10. I hope Chris accepts our job offer, but I know she’s been having interviews with several companies. She (may + already + offer)…………………..a job by a competing firm before we made our offer.

11. A competing firm (may + already + offer)…………………..Chris a job before we made our offer.

12. The class for next semester is too large. It (ought to + divide) ……………………in half, but there’s not enough money in the budget to hire another teacher.

13. Last semester’s class was too large. It (ought to + divide)…………………..in half.

14. These books (have to + return)………………….to the library by tomorrow.

15. Polly (have to + return)………………….these books by next Friday. If she doesn’t return then, she (will + have to + pay) ……………………..a fine to the library.

16. A: Andy, your chores (had better + finish)…………………..by the time I get home, including taking out the garbage.

               B: Don’t worry, Mom. I’ll do everything you told me to do.

17. A: Andy, you (had better + finish) ……………………..your chores before Mom gets home.

               B: I know. I’ll do them in a minute. I’m busy right now.

18. This application (be supposed to + send)…………………..to the personnel department soon.
19. Ann’s birthday was on the 5th, and today is the 8th. Her birthday card (should + send) ………………a week ago. Maybe we’d better give her a call to wish her a belated happy birthday.

20. A: Ann didn’t expect to see her boss at the labor union meeting.
   B: She (must + surprise) …………………when she saw him.
   A: She was.

Exercise 10: Passive modals.

Directions: Use the verb in parentheses with the modal or phrase modal that sounds best to you. All of the sentences are passive.

1. The entire valley (see) can be seen from their mountain home.

2. He is wearing a gold band on his fourth finer. He (marry) …………………

3. According to our teacher, all of our compositions (write) …………………
   ………in ink. He won’t accept papers written in pencil.

4. I found this book on my desk when I came to class. It (leave) …………………
   ………by one of the students in their earlier class.

5. Five of the committee members will be unable to attend the next meeting. In my opinion, the meeting (postpone) ………………………………………

6. A child (give, not) ……………………………everything he or she wants.

7. Your daughter has a good voice. Her interest in singing (encourage) ……………
   …………………………………………………

8. Try to speak slowly when you give your speech. If you don’t, some of your words (misunderstand) ……………………………………………

9. Some UFO sightings (explain, not) ……………………………easily. They are inexplicable.

10. What? You tripped over a chair at the party and dropped your plate of food into a woman’s lap? You (embarrass) ……………………………

11. She is very lazy. If you want her to do anything, she (push) …………………………
12. The hospital in that small town is very old and can no longer serve the needs of the community. A new hospital (build)……………………………………………………………

13. Blue whales and other endangered species (save)………………………………from extinction. Do you agree?

14. We can’t wait any longer! Something (do)……………………………………immediately!

15. In my opinion, Ms. Hasen (elect)…………………………because she is honest, knowledgeable, and competent.

**Exercise 11: Passive modals.**

**Directions:** Create dialogues that include one (more) of the given verb phrases. Use other passive modals if you can. Present your dialogues to the class.

1. should have been changed
2. must be submitted
3. ought to have been told
4. could have been damaged
5. will be announced
6. may be required
7. must have been surprised
8. had better be sent
9. is/are supposed to be worn
10. can’t be estimated

**Exercise 12: Using the passive.**

**Directions:** Use active or passive, in any appropriate tense, for the verbs in parentheses.

1. It’s noon. The mail should be here soon. It (deliver, usually)……………………………………sometime between noon and one o’clock.

2. Only five of us (work)……………………………………in the laboratory yesterday when the explosion (occur)…………………………… Luckily, no one (hurt)……………………
3. I was supposed to take a test yesterday, but I (admit, not)…………………to the testing room because the examination (begin, already)…………………………

4. Before she graduated last May, Susan (offer, already)…………………………a position with a law firm.

5. Right now a student trip to the planetarium (organize)…………………………by Mrs. Hunt. You can sign up for it at her office.

6. He is a man whose name will go down in history. He (forget, never)………………

7. A: Yesterday (be)…………………………a terrible day.
   B: What (happen)………………………………?
   A: First, I (flunk)…………………………a test, or at least I think I did. Then I (drop)…………………………my books while (walk)………………across campus, and they (fall)…………………into a mud puddle. And finally, my bicycle (steal)…………………………

8. Yesterday we went to look at an apartment. I really like it, but by the time we got there, it (rent, already)……………………………………

9. During the family celebration, the little boy was crying because he (ignore)………
   …………………… He needed some attention, too.

10. A: Where (buy, you)…………………that beautiful necklace?
    B: I (buy, not)…………………………it. It (give)…………………………to me for my birthday. (you, like)……………………………………it?

11. The sun is just one of billions of stars in the universe. As it travels through space, it (circle)…………………………by many other celestial bodies. The nine known planets (hold)…………………………in orbit by the sun’s gravitational field. The planets, in turn, (circle)…………………………by their own satellites, or moons.

12. Early inhabitants of this region (warship)…………………………the sun and the moon. We know this form the jewelry, sculptures, and other artwork archeologist have found.
13. Since the beginning of the modern industrial age, many of the natural habitants of plants and animals (destroy)..............................by industrial development and pollution.

14. The Olympic Games began more than 2,000 years ago in Olympia, a small town in Greece. At that time, only Greek men (allow)......................to compete. People of other nationalities (invite, not)..........................to participate, and women (forbid).................................to set foot in the area where the games (hold)..............................

15. Ever since it (build)..............................three centuries ago, the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, (describe, often)..............................at the most beautiful building in the world. It (design)..............................by a Turkish architect, and it (take).................................20,000 workers 20 years to compete it.

Exercise 12: Stative passive.

Directions: Supply that stative passive of the given verbs. Use the simple present or the simple past.

1. Sarah is wearing a blouse. It (make) **is made** of cotton.

2. The door to this room (shut)..............................

3. The lights in this room (turn)..............................on.

4. This room (crowd, not)..............................

5. Jim is sitting quietly. His elbows (bend)..........................., and his hands (fold)..........................in front of him.

6. We can leave now because class (finish)..............................

7. It is hot in this room because the window (close)..............................

8. Yesterday it was hot in this room because the window (close)..............................

9. We can’t go any farther. The car (stick)..............................in the mud.

10. We couldn’t go any farther. The car (stick)..............................in the mud.

11. My room is very neat right now. The bed (make).........................., the floor
(sweep)..........................., and the dish (wash)....................

12. We are ready to sit down and eat dinner. The table (set) ................., the
    meat and rice (do)...............,..., and the candles
    (light)..........................

13. Where’s my wallet? It (go) ......................! Did you take it?


15. Don’t look in the hall closet. Your birthday present (hide)...............there.

**Exercise 13: Stative passive.**

**Directions:** Complete the sentences with an appropriate form of the words in the list.

| bear (born) | exhaust | plug in |
| block | go | qualify |
| confuse | insure | schedule |
| crowd | locate | spoil |
| divorce | lose | stick |
| do | marry | turn off |

1. Excuse me, sir. Could you give me some directions? I **am lost.**

2. Let’s find another restaurant. This one.............too............... We would have to wait at least an hour for a table.

3. The meeting.................................for tomorrow at nine.

4. That’s hard work! I................................. I need to rest for a while.

5. You told me one thing, and John told me another. I don’t know what to think. I......

6. I can’t open the window. It.................................

7. Louise is probably sleeping. The lights in her room.................................

8. Mrs. Wentworth’s jewelry.................................for $50,000.

9. Carolyn and Joe were married to each other for five years, but now they.............

10. I thought I had left my book on this desk, but it isn’t here. It..........................
    I wonder where it is.

11. I’m sorry. You........................not...............for the job. We need someone
with a degree in electrical engineering.

12. I love my wife. I………………………………to a wonderful woman.

13. We can’t eat this fruit. It……………………………… We’ll have to throw it out.

14. We’d better call a plumber. The water won’t go down the drain. The drain……..


16. A: How old is Jack?
    B: He………………………………in 1980.

17. A: The TV set doesn’t work.
    B: Are you sure? ..................it.........................?

18. A: Is dinner ready?
    B: Not yet. The potatoes................not......................... They need another ten minutes.

References


Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia