

# THE PASSIVE VOICE

1. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

The performers were \_\_\_\_\_ (give) a standing ovation.

The film will be \_\_\_\_\_ (direct) by Steven Spielberg.

Spectators are \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) to switch off their mobile phones.

The actors should have been \_\_\_\_\_ (award) an Oscar.

Will the performance be \_\_\_\_\_ (cancel)?

3. Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verbs in brackets.

Since it was published, the novel \_\_\_\_\_ (adapt) for the big screen three times.

Last year, the show \_\_\_\_\_ (cancel) .

A new theatre \_\_\_\_\_ (build) at the moment.

Should film stars \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) so much money?

The audience must \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) not to talk during the performance.

A new series of Comedy Club \_\_\_\_\_ (film) next autumn.

How many tickets for the show \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) so far?

5. Complete the text with the correct active or passive form of the verbs in brackets.

*Saturday Night Live (SNL)* is a live late-night television comedy and variety show that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ was created in the USA. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (run)

Since 1975, when the first show \_\_\_\_\_ (broadcast) . The show's comedy sketches \_\_\_\_\_

(perform) by a large cast of actors and comedians. Each episode \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (host) by a celebrity guest, who usually \_\_\_\_\_ (give) an opening monologue and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (perform) sketches with the cast. Over the years, many famous performers \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (catapult) into the limelight by *SNL* and \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on to

achieve great success in film and television. *SNL* \_\_\_\_\_ (launch) the careers of many talented writers too, who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (give) their first break by the show.

Since it started, *SNL* \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) many awards, and in 2007 it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (name) as one of the '100 Best TV Shows of all time' by *Time* magazine. Because *SNL* has been so successful, it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (copy) by other countries, who \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (develop) their own versions of the show.



4. Rewrite these sentences in the passive.  
Omit by + agent where possible.

Steve Coogan presented the Comedy Awards.

Bridget Christie won the £10,000 prize.

They dimmed the lights and they raised the curtain.

The Culture Minister will open the festival.

They shouldn't have given the first prize to that actor.

They've already sold more than a hundred tickets.

The critics didn't review the show very favourably.



**GET OFF  
MY STAGE**



## VERBS WITH TWO OBJECTS

7. Identify the direct object and the Indirect object in each of these active sentences.

1 They gave the best comedian a prize

*Direct object= a prize*

*Indirect object= the best comedian*

3 He told the audience a very funny story.

8. Rewrite the sentences from exercise 7 in the passive in two ways.

1 The best comedian was given a prize.

A prize was given to the best comedian.

3.

4 We will send the concert tickets to you next week.

4.

5 They have given the firm very bad reviews.

5.

6 They will give the award to the director after the show.

6.

7 They should have emailed me the festival programme by now.

7.

8 They paid the star of the show \$ 150,000 for each episode.

8.



## CAUSATIVE PASSIVE

9 Complete the sentences with an appropriate form of *have something done* and a verb from the box.

Check cut install paint pierce repair rewrite steal

1 'I couldn't understand what the actors were saying'

'You should have your hearing checked'

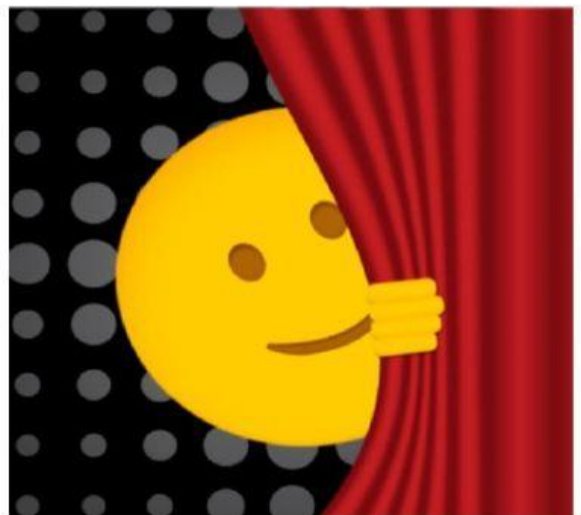
2 'The theatre looks great. I love the colours!'

'Yes, we \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ last year'

3 The owners of the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ new seats \_\_\_\_\_ next week.

4 'Look at what he's done to his hair. It's a disaster!'

'He should \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ by a professional'



5 'Can I borrow your bike?'

'Sorry, I \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ last night'

6 'You still \_\_\_\_\_ the washing machine \_\_\_\_\_!'

'Sorry! I promise I'll have it done soon.'

7 The director didn't like my script, so he \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ by someone else.

8 Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ your tongue \_\_\_\_\_?