The Passive

6

13 **Listen and repeat. Then act out.**

The passive is formed by using the appropriate tense of the verb to be + past participle.

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present Simple	*They **repair** cars.*	*Cars **are repaired**.*
Present Continuous	*They **are repairing** the car.*	*The car **is being repaired**.*
Past Simple	*They **repaired** the car.*	*The car **was repaired**.*
Past Continuous	*They **were repairing** the car.*	*The car **was being repaired**.*
Future Simple	*They **will repair** the car.*	*The car **will be repaired**.*
Present Perfect	*They **have repaired** the car.*	*The car **has been repaired**.*
Past Perfect	*They **had repaired** the car.*	*The car **had been repaired**.*
Future Perfect	*They **will have repaired** the car.*	*The car **will have been repaired**.*
Present Infinitive	*They will have **to repair** the car.*	*The car will have **to be repaired**.*
Perfect Infinitive	*She ought **to have repaired** the car.*	*The car ought **to have been repaired**.*
-ing form	*He likes people **admiring** his new car.*	*He likes his new car **being admired**.*
Perfect -ing form	***Having repaired** the car, ...*	*The car, **having been repaired**, ...*
Modals	*You **must repair** this car.*	*This car **must be repaired**.*

The passive is used:

- **when the agent (the person who does the action) is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.**
  *My car **was stolen** yesterday.* (unknown agent)
  *The road repairs **were completed** last week.* (unimportant agent)
  *The kidnappers **have been arrested**.* (by the police – obvious agent)
- **to make statements more polite or formal.**
  *My new suit **has been burnt**.* (It's more polite than saying *"You've burnt my new suit."*)
- **when the action is more important than the agent – as in news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements, etc.**
  *Taking pictures **is not allowed**.* (written notice)
  *The local bank **was robbed** this morning.* (news report)
  *Bread **is baked** in an oven for about 45 minutes.* (process)
- **to put emphasis on the agent.**
  *The Tower of London was built by **William the Conqueror**.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 The Passive

1 Fill in: *is / are, was / were, have / has been.*

1 Sally told me her wedding dress .....was..... designed by Vera Wang.
2 Before the clothes shop closed, eighty people ..... employed there.
3 On the first day of our holiday, we ..... taken on a wonderful tour of the city by our guide.
4 Jeans ..... worn by both men and women nowadays.
5 Coffee ..... grown in Brazil.
6 Documentaries on marine life ..... shown on TV for many years.
7 *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* ..... written by William Shakespeare.
8 The injured man ..... taken to hospital half an hour ago.
9 Jenny is excited because she ..... offered a new job.

Note: We can use the verb to get instead of the verb to be in everyday speech when we talk about things that happen by accident or unexpectedly.
*Sam **got hit** by a cyclist as he was crossing the road.*

2 Complete the sentences using *get* and the following verbs in the correct form.

~~sting~~ damage steal hurt invite hit

1 Olga ..got stung.. by a bee while she was sitting in the garden.
2 As he was walking through the park, Tom .... by a baseball.
3 Please be careful with those boxes. I don't want anything to ..... .
4 Mary is very popular. She often .... to parties.
5 There was a fire in my apartment block but luckily no one ..... .
6 While travelling, you must always watch your bags or they might ..... .

3 Rewrite the newspaper headlines as complete sentences.

1 **RARE BIRD FOUND IN REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE**

1 .A rare bird has been found in the..... .remote countryside.....

2 **NEW JERSEY TO BE HIT BY BAD WEATHER TOMORROW**

2 .....
.....

3 **EXPERIMENTS BEING CARRIED OUT ON MOON ROCKS**

3 .....
.....

4 **Queen WELCOMED TO AUSTRALIA YESTERDAY**

4 .....
.....

5 **FIVE PEOPLE INJURED IN CAR ACCIDENT**

5 .....
.....

6 **LAST NIGHT'S POP CONCERT CALLED OFF BECAUSE OF RAIN**

6 .....
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Fill in the *passive* in the appropriate tense, then justify its use.

• unimportant / obvious agent • ~~polite statement~~ • emphasis on the agent
• action more important than the agent • process • news report

1 ....polite statement....
.....

(the animals / shouldn't / feed)
....The animals.....
....shouldn't be fed.....

2 .....
.....

(*Oliver Twist* / write / Charles Dickens)
.....
.....

3 .....
.....

(just / tell / the bad news)
.....
.....

4 .....
.....

(dinner / serve)
.....
.....

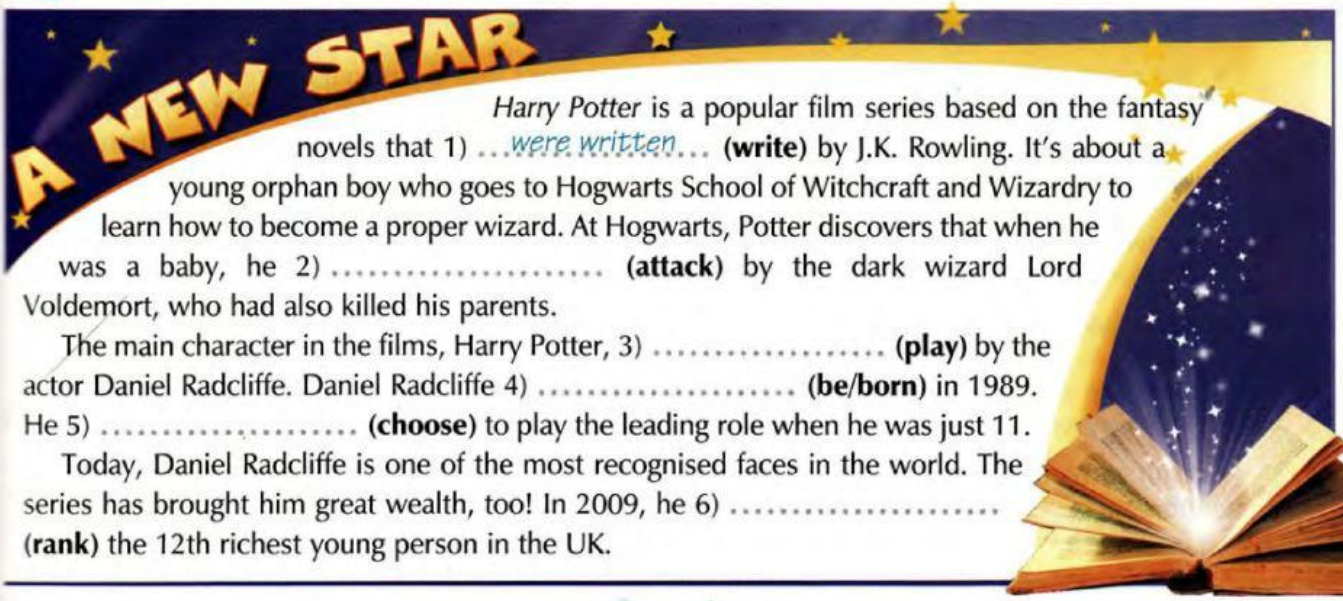
5 .....
.....

(the building / destroy / fire)
.....
.....

6 .....
.....

(cheese / make / from milk)
.....
.....

5 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *passive* form.



Harry Potter is a popular film series based on the fantasy novels that 1) ...were written... **(write)** by J.K. Rowling. It's about a young orphan boy who goes to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to learn how to become a proper wizard. At Hogwarts, Potter discovers that when he was a baby, he 2) ..... **(attack)** by the dark wizard Lord Voldemort, who had also killed his parents.

The main character in the films, Harry Potter, 3) ..... **(play)** by the actor Daniel Radcliffe. Daniel Radcliffe 4) ..... **(be/born)** in 1989. He 5) ..... **(choose)** to play the leading role when he was just 11.

Today, Daniel Radcliffe is one of the most recognised faces in the world. The series has brought him great wealth, too! In 2009, he 6) ..... **(rank)** the 12th richest young person in the UK.

LIVEWORKSHEETS