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Communication breakdown

The Passive

GRAMMARZONE

Present and past simple

- **be + past participle (+ by)**

The Maths lesson **is followed by** Geography.
Graham **was given** a medal for bravery.

Present and past continuous

- **be + -ing form + past participle (+ by)**

We **'re being taught** by Mrs Derby this term.
The explorers **were being driven** mad by the flies.

Present and past perfect

- **have been + past participle (+ by)**

Sharks **have been seen** in the North Sea.
We **hadn't been given** any information before the meeting.

Future

- **will/are going to + be + past participle (+ by)**

Martin **will be told** the results tomorrow.
He **is going to be presented** with a gold watch **by** the captain.

After modals (would, can, might, etc.)

- **would/can/might etc. + be + past participle**

The children **can be trusted** to clear up after the lesson.

We use the passive form when we don't know or it doesn't matter who did the action. It is often used in formal English, such as text books and newspaper articles.

Sulphur dioxide **is combined** with potassium in a test tube.

The Prime Minister **was congratulated** on his speech.

We use by after the passive verb to say who did the action.

The card **was signed by** everyone.

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'I don't believe it! **I've been beaten by** a six year old.'

1 Choose the best form of the verb to complete these sentences.

- 1 Robots are **used/using** in many modern factories now.
- 2 Some people say robots that can do housework **will/are** be manufactured soon.
- 3 Our teacher **was given/gave** us a worksheet to do before the test.
- 4 When the new students arrived, they **are/were** shown where to put their coats.
- 5 I hope the football coach **will be chosen/will choose** me for the team!.
- 6 Darius didn't think he **had/had been** given the homework topic by the