

**1** Read about the passive.

We use the passive voice when the action is more important than the agent, when we don't know the agent or it is not important.

The newspaper is published in the UK.

This article was written in Bolivia.

We form the passive voice with the appropriate tense of *to be* and the past participle of the main verb. We can use *to get* instead of *to be* to talk about something unpleasant that happens by accident or unexpectedly.

The website was set up in 2009.

The correspondent got killed in India.

We form the passive of:

- a gerund with *being* + past participle.
Being interviewed by the journalist was fun.
- a bare infinitive with *be* + past participle.
An article about the famine must be written.
The article had better be written soon.
- a full infinitive with *to be* + past participle.
When is the story supposed to be printed?

Note: When it is important to mention the agent in a passive sentence, we use the word *by* + name/noun. When we want to mention the tool, object or instrument that was used for something we use the word *with*.
A number of newspapers are owned by Guardian Media Group.

The magazine photo was taken with a digital camera.

2 Read the sentences and underline the passive verb forms. Which sentence talks about something unpleasant that happened by accident or unexpectedly? Which verb has been used?

a The correspondent got kidnapped in South America.
b The sports columnist was given a new office.

Read 7.1 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the passive.

- 1 The basketball star _____ (interview) by the sports columnist now.
- 2 This review needs _____ (write) again.
- 3 This website _____ (set up) by a teenager in Bristol last year.
- 4 She wanted her blog _____ (notice) all over the world.
- 5 The newspaper I work for is supposed _____ (give) an award next month.
- 6 My article _____ (publish) in a well-known journal tomorrow.
- 7 Many books _____ (read) on e-readers these days.
- 8 A journalist must _____ (send) to France to talk to the president.
- 9 I remember _____ (shock) by the pictures on the news.
- 10 _____ (offer) a job at Google would be a dream come true!

4 Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Write them in your notebook.

- 1 They should do something about cyber-bullying.
- 2 My company will sell this comic all over the world.
- 3 The editor had edited the magazine before it went to print.
- 4 This man has created many advertisements for the *Chicago Tribune*.
- 5 Journalists want their employer to send them to interesting places.
- 6 Teenagers write a lot of text messages every day.
- 7 The interviewer will have asked the film star a lot of questions by the end of the interview.

