

PASSIVE VOICE 1B

Study the following active and passive forms:

A

Infinitive

active (to) **do/clean/see** etc.

Somebody **will clean** this room later.

passive (to) **be + done/cleaned/seen** etc.

This room **will be cleaned** later.

- ☐ The situation is serious. Something must **be done** before it's too late.
- ☐ A mystery is something that can't **be explained**.
- ☐ The music was very loud and could **be heard** from a long way away.
- ☐ A new supermarket is going **to be built** next year.
- ☐ Please go away. I want **to be left** alone.

B

Perfect infinitive

active (to) **have + done/cleaned/seen** etc.

Somebody **should have cleaned** the room.

passive (to) **have been + done/cleaned/seen** etc.

The room **should have been cleaned**.

- ☐ I should have received the letter by now. It might **have been sent** to the wrong address.
- ☐ If you had locked the car, it wouldn't **have been stolen**.
- ☐ There were some problems at first, but they seem **to have been solved**.

C

Present perfect

active **have/has + done** etc.

The room looks nice. Somebody **has cleaned** it.

passive **have/has been + done** etc.

The room looks nice. **It has been cleaned**.

- ☐ Have you heard? The trip **has been cancelled**.
- ☐ **Have** you ever **been bitten** by a dog?
- ☐ 'Are you going to the party?' 'No, I **haven't been invited**.'

Past perfect

active **had + done** etc.

The room looked nice. Somebody **had cleaned** it.

passive **had been + done** etc.

The room looked nice. **It had been cleaned**.

- ☐ The vegetables didn't taste good. They **had been cooked** too long.
- ☐ The car was three years old, but **hadn't been used** very much.

D

Present continuous

active **am/is/are + (do)ing**

Somebody **is cleaning** the room at the moment.

passive **am/is/are + being (done)**

The room **is being cleaned** at the moment.

- ☐ There's somebody walking behind us. I think we **are being followed**.
- ☐ (in a shop) 'Can I help you?' 'No, thanks. I'm **being served**.'

Past continuous

active **was/were + (do)ing**

Somebody **was cleaning** the room when I arrived.

passive **was/were + being (done)**

The room **was being cleaned** when I arrived.

- ☐ There was somebody walking behind us. I think we **were being followed**.

Exercises

43.1 What do these words mean? Use **it can ...** or **it can't ...**. Use a dictionary if necessary.

If something is

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 washable , <u>it can be washed</u> | 4 unusable , _____ |
| 2 unbreakable , <u>it</u> | 5 invisible , _____ |
| 3 edible , _____ | 6 portable , _____ |

43.2 Complete these sentences with the following verbs (in the correct form):

arrest carry cause ~~do~~ make repair ~~send~~ spend wake up

Sometimes you need **have** (**might have**, **should have** etc.).

- The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.
- I should have received the letter by now. It might have been sent to the wrong address.
- A decision will not _____ until the next meeting.
- Do you think that more money should _____ on education?
- This road is in very bad condition. It should _____ a long time ago.
- The injured man couldn't walk and had to _____.
- I told the hotel receptionist I wanted to _____ at 6.30 the next morning.
- If you hadn't pushed the policeman, you wouldn't _____.
- It's not certain how the fire started, but it might _____ by an electrical fault.

43.3 Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using **somebody** or **they** etc., write a passive sentence.

- Somebody has cleaned the room.
The room has been cleaned.
- Somebody is using the computer right now.
The computer
- I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation.
I didn't realise that
- When we got to the stadium, we found that they had cancelled the game.
When we got to the stadium, we found that
- They are building a new ring road round the city.

- They have built a new hospital near the airport.

43.4 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Sometimes the verb is active, sometimes passive.

- There's somebody behind us. (I think / we / follow) I think we're being followed.
- This room looks different. (you / paint / the walls?) Have you painted the walls?
- My car has disappeared. (it / steal!) It _____
- My umbrella has disappeared. (somebody / take) Somebody _____
- Sam gets a higher salary now. (he / promote) He _____
- Ann can't use her office this week. (it / redecorate) It _____
- There was a problem with the photocopier yesterday, but now it's OK.
(it / work) It _____ again. (it / repair) It _____
- When I went into the room, I saw that the table and chairs were not in the same place.
(the furniture / move) The _____
- A neighbour of mine disappeared six months ago. (he / not / see / since then)
He _____
- I wonder how Jane is these days. (I / not / see / for ages)
I _____
- A friend of mine was mugged on his way home a few nights ago. (you / ever / mug?)
