

## Presentation

You can form the passive in any tense using *be* + past participle, although we do not normally use it with present perfect continuous and past perfect continuous.

Active	Passive
Present simple	<i>It is made</i> in England.
Present continuous	<i>The new model is being developed.</i>
Present perfect	<i>Over a million have been sold.</i>
Past simple	<i>It was launched</i> in 2018.
Past continuous	<i>It was being exported</i> to 20 countries.
Past perfect	<i>The first version had been sent</i> back.
With modal verbs	<i>It will be launched</i> next year.

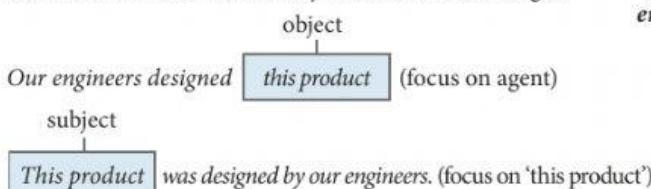
You can also use the passive form with:

**gerunds:** *Customers don't like being sold faulty products.*

**infinitives:** *They want to be bought* by another company.

**get:** in informal English, we also form the passive with *get* instead of *be*: *I get paid* on Fridays.

When we use the active form of a verb, the focus of the sentence is on the 'agent' – the person or thing that does an action. When we use the passive form, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject and the focus changes.



We often use the passive:

- when the agent is obvious, unknown or not important: *Your money will be refunded* to you.
- when we are describing a series of actions that happen to the same subject: *After a faulty product has been repackaged, it should be returned* to us using the correct label.
- to give extra emphasis to the agent by putting the agent at the end of the sentence (after the preposition *by*): *It has been designed by an expert team of engineers.*

## Exercises

### 1 Choose the active or passive form.

Good morning everyone and thank you for coming. Today, we <sup>1</sup>*will look at* / *will be looked at* plans for the next product launch. I don't need to remind you of the last time we had a new launch and it <sup>2</sup>*delayed* / *got delayed* due to poor planning, which is why we <sup>3</sup>*'re meeting* / *'re being met* now. This time, samples of the product <sup>4</sup>*sent* / *were sent* to you all two days ago, so I assume you <sup>5</sup>*have seen* / *have been seen* them. The next step is to discuss how the product <sup>6</sup>*is going to launch* / *is going to be launched*. We <sup>7</sup>*need to start* / *need to be started* our promotion at the beginning of next year because the product <sup>8</sup>*will sell* / *will be sold* from June the first.

### 2 Rewrite these active sentences in the passive form. Do not use the agent.

- 1 We deliver 2,000 boxes per day.  
2,000 boxes
- 2 The delivery man lost our package.  
Our package
- 3 I had paid for the package before it arrived.  
The package
- 4 The sales rep was selling me faulty products so I changed my supplier.  
Faulty products
- 5 They've kept the receipt.  
The receipt
- 6 We should complete the project in a week.  
The project
- 7 We'll refund the money tomorrow.  
The money
- 8 The postman was delivering the package when the dog appeared.  
The package

### 3 Complete the conversations. Write the verb in an appropriate active or passive form. Sometimes more than one verb form is possible.

#### Conversation 1

A: When ..... the results ..... (send) out? Is it the same every year?  
 B: Yes it, the exams ..... (mark) in July so that all candidates ..... (receive) their results in August.

#### Conversation 2

A: The old cinema ..... (demolish) this week!  
 B: Oh no!  
 A: Oh, it's OK. A new one ..... (going to / build) in its place.

#### Conversation 3

A: I ..... (meet) my boss later today. I hope ..... (to / promote).  
 B: Good luck!