



New bridge under construction

A new bridge is going to be built across the city's river. It's been designed by a local architect. The city major announced that the bridge will be completed in two years. Critics of the project have said that more time is needed to assess the full costs of the plans, but road construction at the side of the river has already started.

Presentation

In a sentence with an active verb, the subject of the verb is the person or thing responsible for the action:

***We** are building a new bridge across the river.*

In a sentence with a passive verb, the subject of the verb is the object of the action:

***A new bridge** is going to be built across the river.*

The choice between active and passive depends on what or who you want to focus on.

The bridge has been designed by a local architect. (You are focusing attention on the bridge.)

A local architect has designed the bridge. (You are focusing attention on the architect.)

You can form the passive with *be* in a variety of tenses.

Present perfect	We've built a bridge. → A bridge has been built .
Present continuous	We're building a bridge. → A bridge is being built .
Past continuous	They were building a bridge. → A bridge was being built .
Past perfect	They had built a bridge. → A bridge had been built .
Going to	We're going to build a bridge. → A bridge is going to be built .
Will	We'll build a bridge. → A bridge will be built .
Can / must / may / might	We can / must / may / might build a bridge. → A bridge can / must / may / might be built .

Exercises

1 Choose the correct form of the verb.



Tower Bridge is probably the most famous bridge in London. It ¹*calls / is called* Tower Bridge because it ²*locates / is located* near the Tower of London. The City of London first ³*started / was started* to plan a new bridge across the Thames in 1876. A public competition ⁴*organized / was organized* to choose the best design. More than 50 designs ⁵*received / were received* and it ⁶*took / was taken* eight years for the judges to choose the winning design. The bridge ⁷*finally completed / was finally completed* in 1893. The bridge ⁸*still uses / is still used* today. More than 40,000 people ⁹*cross / are crossed* the bridge every day.

2 Write one active and one passive sentence to describe each picture. Use the verbs in the box.

break cut eat paint

- 1 The men are
The house is
- 2 The woman is
The grass is
- 3 The children have
All the cakes have
- 4 The boys have just
The window has just



3 Rewrite the sentences using the passive or active form. Do not include the agent in the passive sentences.

- 1 The local council are building new houses on the edge of town.
New houses
- 2 The houses will be finished in two years' time.
The builders
- 3 The company has opened five new shops this year.
Five new shops
- 4 Three more shops might be opened next summer.
They
- 5 Local residents are going to hold a protest about road works in the town centre.
A protest
- 6 The roadworks will affect local businesses.
Local businesses