

# 4

## Passive Voice

### STEPS TO TRANSFORM AN ACTIVE SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE



#### STEP 1

Identify the **SUBJECT**, the **VERB** and the **OBJECT** of the active sentence:

Rita **has written** a letter.

#### STEP 2

Move the **OBJECT** to become the new subject of the passive sentence:

A letter...

#### STEP 3

What is the verb tense in the active sentence?

**has written**

(Present perfect)



#### STEP 4

Conjugate the verb **BE** in the same tense:

**has been**

#### STEP 5

Add the past participle of the main verb into the active voice:

**has been written**

#### STEP 6

What do we do with the subject of the active sentence? We can omit it, or use a prepositional phrase introduced by "BY".

A letter **has been written by Rita**

## BE + PAST PARTICIPLE

### ACTIVE VS PASSIVE

Gordana

| TENSE                     | ACTIVE   | PASSIVE   |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Present Simple            | They <b>speak</b> German in Austria.                                 | German <b>is spoken</b> in Austria.                               |
| Present Continuous        | They <b>are planting</b> some trees.                                 | Some trees <b>are being planted</b> .                             |
| Present Perfect           | Someone <b>has eaten</b> my muffin.                                  | My muffin <b>has been eaten</b> .                                 |
| Past Simple               | They <b>closed</b> the road for a day.                               | The road <b>was closed</b> for a day.                             |
| Past Continuous           | He <b>was not feeding</b> his dogs.                                  | His dogs <b>were not being fed</b> .                              |
| Past Perfect              | Someone <b>had put out</b> the fire before the fire brigade arrived. | The fire <b>had been put out</b> before the fire brigade arrived. |
| Future Simple             | They <b>will fine</b> you for littering.                             | You <b>will be fined</b> for littering.                           |
| Future with 'be going to' | They <b>are going to raise</b> taxes.                                | Taxes <b>are going to be raised</b> .                             |
| Modal verbs               | You <b>can solve</b> the problem.                                    | The problem <b>can be solved</b> .                                |

**Change these sentences from active to passive.**

1 Someone is printing their project at the moment.

.....

2 They'll hold the conference in Oslo later this year.

.....

3 The teacher has marked our exam papers.

.....

4 Someone started the competition in 1968.

.....

5 We will sell the new gadgets on the Internet from this March.

.....

**Choose the best answer (A, B or C) to complete the dialogue.**

**Megan:** This is a lovely photo, Gemma. Where

(1) ..... ?

**Gemma:** It was in France. I went there last year to work in a ski resort.

**Megan:** Wow, that sounds great. Do you enjoy

(2) ..... ?

**Gemma:** Yes, I do. But I really went there

(3) ..... my French.

**Megan:** Can you speak French?

**Gemma:** Yes, quite well really. I (4) ..... by my parents from an early age. What about you?

**Megan:** Well, I'm interested (5) ....., but I've never really had the time.

1   **A** was it took     **B** did they take it     **C** was it taken

2   **A** to ski            **B** ski                    **C** skiing

3   **A** to practise     **B** to practising     **C** practise

4   **A** encouraged     **B** was encouraged     **C** were encouraged

5   **A** to learn         **B** in learning         **C** in learn

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using the word given. Use between two and five words.

- 1 They asked hundreds of students to complete a survey.  
**WERE**  
Hundreds .....  
to complete a survey.
- 2 Decorators have repainted the classrooms.  
**HAD**  
The school .....  
repainted.
- 3 Will the school provide the coursebooks?  
**BE**  
Will the ..... the  
school?
- 4 How long ago did Edison invent the light bulb?  
**WAS**  
How long ago .....  
by Edison?
- 5 The hairdresser didn't cut my hair yesterday because I missed the appointment.  
**HAVE**  
I ..... yesterday  
because I missed the appointment.
- 6 I want to ski in the winter. It makes me happy.  
**ENJOY**  
I ..... in  
the winter.
- 7 Paul and his brother are almost the same.  
**SIMILAR**  
Paul is ..... his  
brother.
- 8 Gemma is not like her sister.  
**DIFFERENT**  
Gemma is .....  
sister.
- 9 I'm not interested in playing this computer game anymore.  
**BORED**  
I'm ..... this  
computer game.
- 10 Are they interviewing the band now?  
**INTERVIEWED**  
Is the band ..... now?



## 4.1

# Have something done

Se usa para decir que alguien hace algo por tí. No lo haces tú mismo/a.



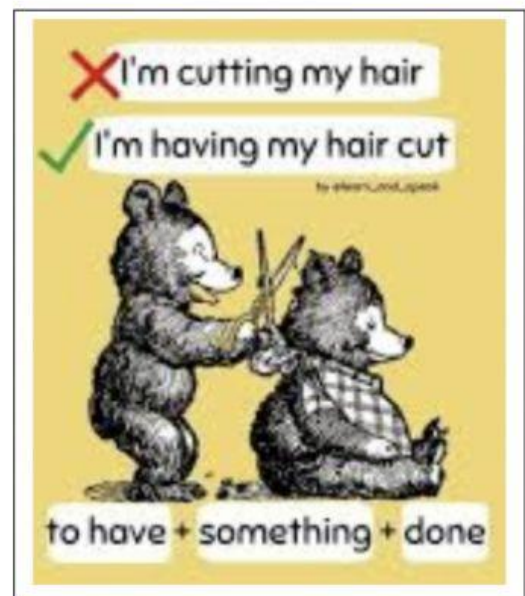
Tim's car is in a terrible condition.  
He is going to have his car repaired.



Her wedding is soon.  
She needs to have her dress fixed.



Mr. Thompson just had all his money stolen.



Presta atención a las expresiones de tiempo subrayadas para saber en qué tiempo verbal poner la frase.

**Write complete sentences with the correct form of *to have something done*.**

- 1 I/my bedroom/paint/a week ago  
.....
- 2 I/my laptop/repair/at the moment  
.....
- 3 I/never/my hair/dye/ until now  
.....
- 4 we/our windows/clean/once a month  
.....
- 5 my dad/his car/service/every six months  
.....