● The passive / the causative / direct and indirect objects

The passive

Form	noun + *be* in the correct form + past participle (+ *by/with* + noun)	
	Active	**Passive**
present simple	*They grow bananas in tropical areas.*	*am/is/are* + past participle *Bananas **are grown** in tropical areas.*
present continuous	*They are redecorating the café.*	*am/is/are* + *-ing* + past participle *The café **is being redecorated**.*
present perfect simple	*Has anyone peeled the carrots?*	*has/have* + *been* + past participle ***Have** the carrots **been peeled**?*
past simple	*They served the meal in an elegant dining room.*	*was/were* + past participle *The meal **was served** in an elegant dining room.*
past continuous	*We asked for coffee while they were preparing the bill.*	*was/were* + *-ing* + past participle *We asked for coffee while the bill **was being prepared**.*
past perfect simple	*Someone had eaten all the food by the time I got there.*	*has* + *been* + past participle *All the food **had been eaten** by the time I got there.*
will future	*We will deliver your pizza in forty minutes.*	*will* + *be* + past participle *Your pizza **will be delivered** in forty minutes.*
be going to future	*Overweight customers are going to sue Burgerland.*	*is/are going to* + *be* + past participle *Burgerland **is going to be sued** by overweight customers.*
future perfect simple	*They will have harvested all the grapes by the end of September.*	*will* + *have* + *been* + past participle *All the grapes **will have been harvested** by the end of September.*
modal	*You should brush the chicken breast with oil and then fry it.*	modal + *be* + past participle *The chicken breast **should be brushed** with oil and then fried.*
modal + perfect infinitive	*They should have delivered the groceries by now.*	modal + *have* + *been* + past participle *The groceries **should have been delivered** by now.*
-ing (gerund)	*I don't like people telling me what to do in the kitchen.*	*being* + past participle *I don't like **being told** what to do in the kitchen.*

Use	Example
When we don't know who does/did something	*My groceries **have been stolen**!*
When it's obvious who does/did something	*A boy **was arrested** in town yesterday for stealing an apple.*
When it's not important who does/did something	*The French bistro **is being knocked down**.*
When we want to emphasise new information or use a formal style	*The potato **was brought** to Europe by Sir Walter Raleigh.*

Watch out!

- We do not normally use verbs in the passive in the present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous, future continuous or future perfect continuous tenses. Instead, we use a different phrase.
  - ✓ *The restaurant has been **under construction** for four yours.*
  - ✗ ~~*The restaurant **has been being built** for four years.*~~
  - ✓ *Dave has been **in training** as a chef for three years.*
  - ✗ ~~*Dave **has been being trained** as a chef for three years.*~~
- We only normally use *'by'* to say who did something when it is important information.
  - ✓ *Margarine was invented **by** a French chef.*
  - ✓ *The best pizzas are made **by** the Italians.*
  - ✗ ~~*Waiter! This steak has been overcooked **by** someone.*~~
- We usually use *'with'* when we talk about the thing used to do something.
  - ✓ *The soup should then be stirred **with** a spoon.*
  - ✗ ~~*The soup should then be stirred **by** a spoon.*~~
- Some verbs are not normally used in the passive. They include intransitive verbs (without objects), such as *appear* and *die*, and some common transitive verbs, such as *have*, *let*, *lack*, etc.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The impersonal passive

To express other people's opinions in a formal style, we can use two special forms of the passive.
They can be used with a number of verbs, including: *say, believe, think, claim, estimate,* etc.
Some other verbs (*argue, suggest, calculate,* etc) are usually used with only the second structure.

Form noun + *is/are said to* + bare infinitive/perfect infinitive
It is said that + clause

Active	Passive
*People **think** he **is** a great chef.*	*He **is thought to be** a great chef.* ***It is thought that he is** a great chef.*
*People **believe** he **was** a great chef.*	*He **is believed to have been** a great chef.* ***It is believed that he was** a great chef.*
*People **claim** he **has had** an influence on many other chefs.*	*He **is claimed to have had** an influence on many other chefs.* ***It is claimed that he has had** an influence on many other chefs.*
*People **say** he **has been making** the best cheese in the area for over thirty years.*	*He **is said to have been making** the best cheese in the area for over thirty years.* ***It is said that he has been making** the best cheese in the area for over thirty years.*
*People **estimated** that his restaurant **was** worth over $10 million.*	*His restaurant **was estimated to be / to have been** worth over $10 million.* ***It was estimated that his restaurant was** worth over $10 million.*
*People **have suggested** that he **is** a great chef.*	***It has been suggested that he is** a great chef.*

The causative

Form noun + *have/get* in the correct form + noun + past participle (+ *by/with* + noun)

Use	Example
To show that someone arranges for someone else to do something for them	*I **have** my groceries **delivered** by the supermarket once a week.* *We **are having** a new cooker **put in** tomorrow.* *We **had** a large wedding cake **made**.* ***Have** you **had** your kitchen **decorated**?* *We **are going to have** the food for the party **made** by a catering company.*
To refer to an unpleasant situation which hasn't been arranged	*We **had** our herb garden **vandalised** while we were away.* *The Smiths **have had** their new microwave **stolen**.*

Watch out!

- Using the verb *get* is usually more informal than using *have*.
  ✓ *Can you go and **get** this recipe **photocopied** for me?*
- We can also use *get somebody to do* and *have somebody do* when we want to refer to the person we arrange to do something for us.
  ✓ *Why don't you **get the chef to prepare** you a vegetarian meal?*
  ✓ *Why don't you **have the chef prepare** you a vegetarian meal?*

Direct and indirect objects

Some verbs can be followed by both a direct and an indirect object (usually a person).
These verbs include:
bring, buy, get, give, lend, make, offer, owe, pass, promise, send, show, take, teach, tell, write, etc.

Active	Passive
We can put the indirect object either immediately after the verb, or at the end of the sentence with a preposition (*for/to,* etc). *A friend gave **my sister** this cookery book.* *A friend gave this cookery book **to my sister**.*	The subject of the sentence can be either the indirect object or the direct object of the active sentence. ***My sister** was given this cookery book by a friend.* ***This cookery book** was given to my sister by a friend.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Choose the correct word or phrase.

1 The prime minister **was / has** criticised for his recent actions.
2 When I walked past the Wilsons' house, their new sofa **was / has** being delivered.
3 Our teacher **was / has** told us to take our favourite book to school tomorrow.
4 I think my mobile **was / has** been stolen!
5 Jonathan **was / has** chosen to play the lead role in the school play.
6 I'm sleeping downstairs because my bedroom **is being painted / has been painting**.
7 This picture **was / has** probably taken during the winter.
8 Your essays must **be / have** handed in on Friday morning.
9 Someone **was / has** left their wallet on the floor.
10 Did you hear about the bank **being / having** robbed?
11 *Treasure Island* **was / has** written by Robert Louis Stevenson.
12 It was a real shock when my dad **was / has** fired from his job.
13 The Vikings had visited America before it **was / has** discovered by Columbus.
14 When we got to the airport, we learned that our flight **was / had** been delayed.
15 **Was / Has** your ticket for the concert tomorrow paid for by you or your parents?

B Complete using the correct passive form of the verbs in brackets.

1 The Earth ..... (**hold**) by the gravity of the Sun and orbits around it.
2 The first feature-length comedy film ..... (**create**) by Charlie Chaplin.
3 The award for best video ..... (**present**) later this evening.
4 By the time you read this, I ..... (**arrest**) for murder.
5 I don't know whether our tests ..... (**mark**) yet or not.
6 Radio waves ..... (**discover**) by Marconi.
7 You wouldn't think it to look at him now, but Jack ..... (**bully**) when he was at school.
8 Your application ..... (**consider**) and we will let you know as soon as we've made a decision.
9 The roof of the car can ..... (**lower**) by pressing this button here.
10 Our tent ..... (**blow**) over in the night by the wind.
11 Chess ..... (**play**) for around two thousand years now.
12 Two men ..... (**question**) at this moment by police in connection with the burglary.

C Write sentences in the passive.

1 Our car / service / a mechanic / at the moment.
.....
2 A man / shoot / an air gun / outside the petrol station last night.
.....
3 Gunpowder / invent / the Chinese.
.....
4 At the surgery yesterday, I / examine / Dr Peterson / and I / give / a prescription.
.....
5 I went to see it because I / tell / it was a good film / all my friends.
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 This photograph / take / my grandfather.

.....

7 It looked like the window / break / a hammer / some time before.

.....

8 Our dog / give / an injection / a special syringe / the vet.

.....

9 The winning goal in last night's match / score / Donatello / a brilliant free kick.

.....

10 Your cheque / send / last Friday and / should / deliver / to you tomorrow.

.....

D Rewrite using the phrase given.

1 They have been building the new road for a long time now. (**under construction**)

.....

2 They had been training the horse for the race for over a year. (**in training**)

.....

3 They have been dicusssing the issue in Parliament. (**under discussion**)

.....

4 They had been observing the criminal for the past two weeks. (**under observation**)

.....

5 They have been using this plane for over 25 years now. (**in use**)

.....

6 They have been developing the Cyborg D423 robot for over ten years. (**in development**)

.....

E Rewrite in the passive starting with the words given.

1 People say that Bali is a beautiful island.
It .....

2 People generally think that life won't be found on Mars.
It .....

3 It is generally said that Christmas is too commercialised.
Christmas .....

4 People often argue that prison doesn't work.
It .....

5 People have suggested that the school should start to produce a magazine.
It .....

6 People say that crocodile tastes like squid.
Crocodile .....

7 It is said that the Vikings discovered America before Columbus.
The Vikings .....

8 People think that heart disease is caused by eating the wrong things.
Heart disease .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F Choose the correct answer.

1 We ..... a swimming pool put in this week.
A get
B are having
C have
D have got

2 Why don't you get a doctor ..... at your arm?
A to look
B looked
C look
D be looking

3 My teeth were a little yellow so I ..... by the dentist.
A had cleaned them
B have them cleaned
C was cleaned them
D had them cleaned

4 Stuart's thinking of having ..... !
A shaved his head
B his head shaving
C his head shaved
D shaved to his head

5 My sister ..... her ear pierced last weekend.
A made
B got
C did
D took

6 Mum and Dad didn't fancy cooking, so we got a pizza ..... .
A be delivered
B to be delivered
C delivered
D deliver

7 You should ..... a professional to check your house for earthquake damage.
A have
B make
C take
D get

8 Kelly wanted to have a live band ..... at her wedding.
A to be played
B play
C played
D been playing

9 Can we ..... this summer?
A get installed air-conditioning
B get air-conditioning to install
C have installed air-conditioning
D have air-conditioning installed

10 We ..... while we were on holiday.
A were burgled our house
B had our house burgled
C had burgled our house
D got burgled our house

G Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words in each gap.

1 Someone has scratched my car on the door! **been**
My car ..... on the door!

2 Tommy is having an operation right now. **being**
Tommy ..... right now.

3 Has Fiona invited you to her party? **been**
Have ..... party?

4 Shakespeare probably wrote this play in 1587. **written**
This play ..... Shakespeare in 1587.

5 The government is considering a new law to ban smoking following new research. **considered**
A new law to ban smoking ..... following new research.

6 My mum told me to go to Megagrocers. **sent**
I ..... my mum.

7 I didn't understand a word so I asked my teacher and she explained it to me. **got**
I didn't understand a word so I ..... it to me.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

H Find the extra word in each line.

Wedding disaster

1 ..... My wedding had been being arranged for months. I knew exactly what I
2 ..... wanted for that special day. I had the caterers to give me a menu and
3 ..... have got them to provide me with samples so that I could be sure we
4 ..... would have the best food. I also wanted to have us a string quartet play
5 ..... classical music and I arranged that, too. My dress was been being made
6 ..... specially and I had told the dressmaker put silver thread in it. Finally, the
7 ..... big day got arrived. My dress was being delivered in the morning, but by
8 ..... ten it still hadn't arrived. They called me and said it had been being
9 ..... damaged! I was furious! I had my best friend quickly to pop out and get
10 ..... a new dress. I had got my lawyer to call to get my money back.

I Rewrite with the indirect object at the end of the sentence.

1 My dad got me a great computer game!
My dad got a great computer game for me.

2 Dave sent Jill a really nice letter.
.....

3 I threw Colin the ball.
.....

4 The waiter offered us a menu.
.....

5 The hotel provides its guests with satellite television.
.....

6 My grandma taught me this song.
.....

J Write one word in each gap.

The European Diet

It's hard for us to imagine what (**1**) ..... included in the European diet before America (**2**) ..... discovered (**3**) ..... Columbus in 1492. So many ingredients which today (**4**) ..... grown all over the world (**5**) ..... unknown to medieval Europeans. Potatoes, tomatoes, maize and chocolate (**6**) ..... all originally imported from the New World. Until then, meals had (**7**) ..... prepared using ingredients native to Europe, such as root vegetables. Of course, spices such as pepper (**8**) ..... been traded and added to food for centuries. When the potato (**9**) ..... first introduced, it was surprisingly unpopular. It (**10**) ..... considered to be poisonous and it took a long time to become common. There is a story of Parmentier, a French army officer, who (**11**) ..... potatoes planted in the royal garden and (**12**) ..... Marie Antoinette to wear a potato flower to make them fashionable. The poor peasants were curious about the new plants and many of them (**13**) ..... stolen to be planted in their own gardens. It was the start of French fries!

LIVEWORKSHEETS