

The passive 1

● The passive (present simple, past simple, will)

Form

be in the right form + past participle

statement

negative

question

Everyone **is invited!**

Some people **aren't (are not) invited.**

Is everyone invited?

Active

Passive

present simple

They **always invite** Grandma.

Grandma **is always invited.**

past simple

They **invited** Uncle Adrian.

Uncle Adrian **was invited.**

will

They **will / won't** invite the neighbours.

The neighbours **will / won't be** invited.

Use

Example

When we don't know who does something

My sister's bike **was stolen** yesterday.

When we don't want or need to say who does something

Was Simon invited?

● Helpful hints

If you are not sure how to form a passive sentence, think of the **active** sentence first.

Active sentence:

Someone **stole my sister's bike** yesterday.

Passive sentence:

My sister's bike was stolen yesterday.

- Look at the active sentence. The verb is **stole** and the object is *my sister's bike*.
- The object of the active sentence (*my sister's bike*) becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
My sister's bike ...
- Then we need the verb **be** in the same tense as the verb in the active sentence. Here, **stole** is past simple, so we need **was**.
My sister's bike was ...
- Then we need the past participle of the verb in the active sentence. The past participle of **steal** is **stolen**.
My sister's bike was stolen ...
- Finally, we finish the sentence in the right way.
My sister's bike was stolen yesterday.

Watch out!

- When the verb in a passive sentence is a phrasal verb, don't forget to include the particle.
They **picked up** the broken glass. → The broken glass **was picked up**.
- Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

A The words and phrases in bold in each sentence are wrong. Write the correct word or phrase.

- 1 Every year, several prizes are **giving** to the best students.
- 2 When the pizza was **delivering**, it was cold.
- 3 You will be **telling** when you can come in.
- 4 That song **doesn't** played on the radio very often, is it?
- 5 **Your money was stealing** out of your bag?
- 6 We **haven't** allowed to use a dictionary in the exam yesterday.
- 7 That film won't **have** shown in our local cinema for a long time.
- 8 **I will be** picked up from the station on Saturday?

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

- 1 When people (arrest), they (take) to the police station.
- 2 Milk (usually / keep) in the fridge.
- 3 (we / tell) what's in next week's test?
- 4 How did people communicate over long distances before the phone (invent)?
- 5 (you / allow) to come to the party next Saturday?
- 6 You (give) your exam results next Monday.
- 7 (Aidan's bike / find) yesterday?

C Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use the correct passive form of the verbs in the box. Add any other words you need.

call • catch • find • investigate • rob • send



- 1 At ten o'clock yesterday morning, the local bank in the high street
- 2 At one minute past ten, the police
- 3 A few minutes later, the police arrived at the bank. The crime scene
- 4 At twenty past ten, the robbers' fingerprints
- 5 At half past eleven, the robbers
- 6 Next week, they

- E** 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.

- 1 Will they send the letters first class? **sent**
Will first class?
- 2 I'm not sure if they eat pizza in China. **is**
I'm not sure if in China.
- 3 Someone told me that they don't make cars in the UK anymore. **made**
Someone told me that in the UK anymore.
- 4 Do they usually feed the animals three times a day? **fed**
Are three times a day?
- 5 Mr Jones is ill, so he won't give us a geography test today! **be**
Mr Jones is ill, so a geography test today!
- 6 Did they take her to hospital in an ambulance? **she**
Was to hospital in an ambulance?

- F** Write one word in each gap.

The National Trust

There are lots of beautiful, large houses in Britain. Many of them (1) built hundreds of years ago. In the past, they (2) owned by very rich families. Today, many of them (3) owned by an organisation called The National Trust, which (4) created to look after them. The houses (5) kept in perfect condition, and visitors (6) allowed to look round them. It's interesting to learn how different life was in an old house. Milk was (7) kept in the fridge, because they didn't have fridges! Washing machines (8) only invented very recently, so washing (9) done by hand. In some cases, the house (10) still lived in today. When this happens, visitors (11) only shown part of the house. The private rooms (12) kept closed to the public. These houses often have beautiful gardens, too. The gardens (13) looked after by professional gardeners.

You usually have to pay to look round National Trust houses. Members of the National Trust (14) given a discount. This year, millions of people (15) be given the chance to see what life in an old country house was like.