6

GRAMMAR

Passive 2

Have and *get* something *done, need doing*

- *Have/get* something *done*

  This typically describes a service performed for us by someone else.

  *I've just **had/got** my car **serviced**. I **have/get** it **done** every winter.*

  It can also describe something unfortunate that happens to someone.

  *We **had/got** our car **broken into** last month.*

  Get is more likely to be used than *have* when:

  i) there is a feeling that something must be done.

  *I really must **get/have** my hair **cut**.*

  ii) there is a feeling of eventually managing to do something.

  *I eventually **got/had** the car **fixed** at the Fast Service garage.*

  iii) in orders and imperatives.

  ***Get** your hair **cut**!*

  Note that *get* should not be used in the present perfect passive, where it would be confused with *have got*.

  *I've just **had** my hair **cut**.* (possible)

  *I've just **got** my hair **cut**.* (not possible)

- The need to have a service done can be described with *need doing*.

  *Your hair **needs cutting**.*

Passive *get*

Get can be used instead of *be* to form the passive in spoken language.

*Martin **got arrested** at a football match.*

Reporting verbs

- Present reference

  With verbs such as *believe, know, say, think,* which report people's opinions, a passive construction is often used to avoid a weak subject, and to give a generalized opinion. With present reference, the passive is followed by the present infinitive.

  *The criminal **is thought to be** in hiding in the London area.*

  *Vitamin C **is known to be** good for treating colds.*

- Past reference

  With past reference, the passive is followed by the past infinitive.

  *Smith **is believed to have left** England last week.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- Past reporting verb
  If the reporting verb is in the past, the past infinitive tends to follow, though not always if the verb *be* is used.
  People thought Sue had paid too much.
  Sue ***was thought to have paid*** *too much.*
  The police thought that the thief was still in the house.
  The thief ***was thought to*** *still* ***be*** *in the house.*

- Past reference with two objects
  In this case there are two ways of making a passive sentence.
  Everyone knows the portrait ***was painted by*** *an Italian.*
  The portrait ***is known to have been painted*** *by an Italian.*

- Continuous infinitive
  Past and present continuous infinitives are also used.
  Mary is thought ***to be living*** *in Scotland.*
  The driver is thought ***to have been doing*** *a U-turn.*

Verbs with prepositions

- Ending a sentence with a preposition
  It is possible to end a sentence with a preposition in a sentence where a prepositional verb is made passive.
  Somebody broke into our house.
  Our house was broken ***into****.*

- *By* and *with*
  With is used after participles such as *filled, packed, crowded, crammed.*
  The train ***was packed with*** *commuters.*
  The difference between *by* and *with* may involve the presence of a person:
  Dave was hit ***by*** *a branch.* (an accident)
  Dave was hit ***with*** *a branch.* (a person hit him with one)

- *Make* is followed by *to* when used in the passive.
  My boss made me work hard.
  I ***was made to*** *work hard by my boss.*

- *Cover* and verbs which involve similar ideas, such as *surround, decorate,* can use *with* or *by. Cover* can also be followed by *in.*
  The furniture ***was covered in*** *dust.*
  The living room ***had been decorated with*** *flowery wallpaper.*

- Common contexts for the passive
  The passive is common in technical and scientific writing, and generally in spoken and written contexts where there is less use of personal reference, since the audience may be unknown, or the speaker wants to remain impersonal.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Decide whether the sentences in each pair have the same meaning. Rewrite those which are different.

1 I've just been to the hairdresser's. What do you think?
I've just cut my hair at the hairdresser's. What do you think?
I've just had my hair cut.

2 Someone is painting our house at the moment.
We are painting our house at the moment.
.....

3 The dentist is going to take out two of my teeth tomorrow.
I'm having two teeth taken out tomorrow.
.....

4 The teacher made us all tidy up.
We were made to tidy up by the teacher.
.....

5 The car is thought to have been stolen by joy-riders.
Joy-riders are thought to have stolen the car.
.....

6 Just a minute. I'll ask someone to wrap this for you.
Just a minute. I'll have to wrap this up for you.
.....

7 The car hasn't been serviced for a long time.
We haven't had the car serviced for a long time.
.....

8 They're coming to put in a new water-heater next week.
We're putting in a new water-heater next week.
.....

9 Would you consider having plastic surgery to alter your nose?
Would you consider having your nose altered by plastic surgery?
.....

2 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

1 The busy shopping street was thronged *by/<u>with</u>* people.
2 The emergency exit was concealed *by/from* a red curtain.
3 The price of excursions is included *in/with* the cost of the holiday.
4 All through January, the fields were covered *by/from* snow.
5 The room was crammed *by/with* furniture of all descriptions.
6 Two of the climbers were injured *by/with* falling rocks.
7 The island is inhabited *by/from* people of mainly Chinese origin.
8 The bank was quickly surrounded *from/with* armed police.
9 The window had been smashed *from/with* a hammer taken from the shed.
10 The stadium was packed *from/with* cheering fans.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.**



1 We think the treasure dates from the thirteenth century.
think
It ..... is thought to date ..... from the thirteenth century.

2 Your hair needs cutting.
get
You ..... cut.

3 Jill's parents are making her study hard.
made
Jill ..... her parents.

4 Apparently the ship did not sustain any damage.
appears
The ship ..... any damage.

5 It is thought that the two injured men were repairing overhead cables.
have
The two injured men ..... overhead cables.

6 There is a rumour that the escaped prisoner is living in Spain.
be
The escaped prisoner ..... living in Spain.

7 We have agreed to meet again in a fortnight.
will
It has ..... meet again in a fortnight.

8 We decided to try again later.
would
It was ..... try again later.

9 There is confirmation of Mr Jackson's intended resignation.
that
It is ..... to resign.

10 Most of the committee thought it was not a viable solution.
not
It was thought ..... by most of the committee.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Rewrite each sentence so that it ends with the word underlined.

1 Another company has taken over our company.
Our company has been taken over.

2 We are dealing with your complaint.

3 We have not accounted for all the missing passengers.

4 Someone had tampered with the lock of the front door.

5 We don't know how they disposed of the body.

6 I must insist that you keep to the rules.

7 We are looking into this allegation.

8 We will frown upon any attempts to cheat in the exam.

9 The youngest student complained that people were picking on him.

10 You haven't paid for the second pizza.

11 I think they have made up the whole story.

5 Complete each sentence with a suitable preposition.

1 The tree had been decorated with coloured balls.
2 The answers have been included ..... the book.
3 After the rugby match, Jim's shorts were covered ..... mud.
4 The victim was struck from behind ..... a heavy object.
5 The house was built ..... money that David borrowed from the bank.
6 The cat narrowly escaped being run over ..... a car.
7 When the accident happened, Sue was struck ..... flying glass.
8 The turkey was stuffed ..... chestnuts, and was very tasty.
9 No one knew that Peter had been involved ..... the investigation.
10 When I left the casino, my pockets were crammed ..... money.
11 All the presents were wrapped ..... yellow paper.
12 It turned out that the bridge had been damaged ..... a lorry.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 Complete the text by writing a verb from the box in each space.

was seen	were made to	was brought	was obliged to
are believed to have been	~~is known to have experienced~~		is not known
are thought to be	was packed		is thought to have been

A plane carrying 15 members of the government to a conference in Brussels (1) *is known to have experienced* a small-scale fire earlier this morning. The plane (2) ..... about 20 minutes into its journey when the fire occurred in the luggage area. It (3) ..... how the plane caught fire, but initial eye-witness accounts confirm that a trail of smoke (4) ..... coming from the under-carriage. The fire (5) ..... rapidly under control, but the pilot (6) ..... make an emergency landing. Five people (7) ..... treated for shock. The plane (8) ..... with business people flying to Belgium. All 209 passengers (9) ..... stay behind for questioning after landing at a military airport in northern France. Police (10) ..... treating the incident as suspicious.

7 Rewrite the text using the passive where possible. Make sure the words underlined do not appear.

Nobody knows exactly when someone invented gunpowder. People know for a fact that the Chinese made rockets and fireworks long before people used gunpowder in Europe, which occurred at about the beginning of the thirteenth century. We generally believe that gunpowder brought to an end the 'Age of Chivalry', since anyone with a firearm could bring down a mounted knight. In fact, people did not develop efficient firearms until the sixteenth century. They used gunpowder mainly in siege cannon when people first introduced it. Later they used it in engineering work and in mining, but they found that it was extremely dangerous. Modern explosives have now replaced gunpowder, but we still use it for making fireworks, just as the Chinese did.

It is not known exactly .....

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LIVEWORKSHEETS