

# passives: introduction *English is spoken in Australia.*

When A does something to B, there are often two ways to talk about it: 'active' and 'passive'.

We use active verbs if we want A to be the **subject**.

We use passive verbs if we want B to be the **subject**.

We make passive verbs with *be* (*am, are, is* etc) + **past participle** (*cooked, seen* etc).



ACTIVE				PASSIVE		
A		B		B		(by A)
Mrs Harris	cooks	our meals.		Our meals	are cooked	by Mrs Harris.
Andrew	broke	the window.		The window	was broken	by Andrew.
Somebody	saw	her	in Belfast.	She	was seen	in Belfast.
The government	will close	the hospital	next year.	The hospital	will be closed	next year.

Passive verbs have the **same tenses** (simple present, present progressive, present perfect etc) as active verbs.

Note the use of *by* in passives, to say **who** or **what** does the action.

*Our meals are cooked by Mrs Harris.* (NOT ...~~from Mrs Harris.~~)

## Which picture goes with which sentence?




- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▶ The policeman helped the old lady. ... <sup>A</sup> | 4 Annie loves all dogs. ....                       |
| 1 The policeman was helped by the old lady. ....      | 5 Annie is loved by all dogs. ....                 |
| 2 The car hit a tree. ....                            | 6 The Queen photographed the tourists. ....        |
| 3 The car was hit by a tree. ....                     | 7 The Queen was photographed by the tourists. .... |



**Circle** the correct answer.

- English *speaks / spoken / is spoken* in Australia.
- I *studied / was studied* French for three years at school.
- We *spent / was spent* too much money on holiday.
- This window *broke / was broken* by your little boy.
- Her clothes *made / are made* in Paris.
- This book *written / was written* by my brother.
- The new university *will open / will opened / will be opened* by the Prime Minister.
- Ann *was driving / was driven* much too fast, and she *stopped / was stopped* by the police.
- This house *built / was built* in 1800.
- Everybody *had / was had / was have* a good time at the party.

## simple present passive *We are woken by the birds.*

	<i>I am woken</i>	<i>you are woken</i>	<i>he/she/it is woken</i> etc
	<i>am I woken?</i>	<i>are you woken?</i>	<i>is he/she/it woken?</i> etc
	<i>I am not woken</i>	<i>you are not woken</i>	<i>he/she/it is not woken</i> etc

We use the **simple present passive** like the simple present active, for things that are **always true**, and things that happen **all the time, repeatedly, often, sometimes, never** etc

*I am paid every two weeks. Is Jeremy liked by the other children? Stamps aren't sold here.*

### Complete the sentences with *am/are/is*.

- ▶ A lot of paper *is* made from wood.
- 1 What ..... this called in English?
  - 2 Jane ..... paid on the first of every month.
  - 3 I ..... often sent to the Singapore office.
  - 4 ..... any classes taught on Wednesdays?
  - 5 More chocolate ..... eaten in the US than in any other country.
  - 6 Not very much ..... known about Shakespeare's childhood.
  - 7 We ..... woken by the birds every morning.
  - 8 ..... you seen by the same doctor every week?

### Put simple present passive verbs into these sentences.

- ▶ A lot of olive oil *is used* in Greek cooking. (*use*)
- 1 Arabic ..... from right to left. (*write*)
  - 2 Those programmes ..... by millions of people every week. (*watch*)
  - 3 Stamps ..... in most newsagents in Britain. (*sell*)
  - 4 The police say that nothing ..... about the child's family. (*know*)
  - 5 In English, 'ough' ..... in a lot of different ways. (*pronounce*)
  - 6 Spanish ..... in Peru. (*speak*)
  - 7 Cricket ..... by two teams of eleven players. (*play*)
  - 8 Our windows ..... once a month. (*clean*)

### Make simple present negatives and questions.

- ▶ 'Those computers *are not made* ..... in America.' (*not make*)  
'Where *are they made?* ..... 'In China.'
- 1 'My name ..... with a Y.' (*not spell*)  
'How ..... 'L, E, S, L, I, E.'
  - 2 'That kind of bird ..... around here, usually.' (*not see*)  
'Where ..... 'In warmer countries.'
  - 3 'Where ..... like *were*.' (*not pronounce*)  
'How ..... 'Like *wear*.'
  - 4 'Diamonds ..... in Scotland.' (*not find*)  
'Where ..... 'In South Africa, for example.'
  - 5 'My sister ..... very well.' (*pay*)  
'How much ..... 'I don't remember.'