



# PASSIVE VOICE

What do these words mean? Use **it can ...** or **it can't ...**. Use a dictionary if necessary.

If something is

1 **washable**, it can be washed  
2 **unbreakable**, it  
3 **edible**,

4 **unusable**,  
5 **invisible**,  
6 **portable**,

Complete these sentences with the following verbs (in the correct form):

arrest carry cause do make repair send spend wake up

Sometimes you need **have** (might have, should have etc.).

1 The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.  
2 I should have received the letter by now. It might have been sent to the wrong address.  
3 A decision will not be made until the next meeting.  
4 Do you think that more money should be spent on education?  
5 This road is in very bad condition. It should be repaired a long time ago.  
6 The injured man couldn't walk and had to be carried.  
7 I told the hotel receptionist I wanted to be woken up at 6.30 the next morning.  
8 If you hadn't pushed the policeman, you wouldn't have been arrested.  
9 It's not certain how the fire started, but it might have been caused by an electrical fault.

3 Put the verb into the correct form, present simple or past simple, active or passive.

1 It's a big factory. Five hundred people are employed (employ) there.  
2 Did somebody clean (somebody / clean) this room yesterday?  
3 Water covers (cover) most of the earth's surface.  
4 How much of the earth's surface is covered (cover) by water?  
5 The park gates are locked (lock) at 6.30 p.m. every evening.  
6 The letter was sent (send) a week ago and it arrived (arrive) yesterday.  
7 The boat hit a rock and sank (sink) quickly. Fortunately everybody was rescued (rescue).  
8 Robert's parents died (die) when he was very young. He and his sister was brought up (bring up) by their grandparents.  
9 I was born in London, but I grew up (grow up) in Canada.  
10 While I was on holiday, my camera was stolen (steal) from my hotel room.  
11 While I was on holiday, my camera disappeared (disappear) from my hotel room.  
12 Why did Sue resign (Sue / resign) from her job? Didn't she enjoy it?  
13 Why was Ben fired (Ben / fire) from his job? Did he do something wrong?  
14 The company is not independent. It is owned (own) by a much larger company.  
15 I saw an accident last night. Somebody called (call) an ambulance but nobody was injured (injure), so the ambulance was not needed (not / need).  
16 Where were these pictures taken (these pictures / take)? In London? Who took (you / take) them, or somebody else?  
17 Sometimes it's quite noisy living here, but it's not a problem for me – I am not bothered (not / bother) by it.

Complete the sentences using one of these verbs in the correct form, present or past:

cause	damage	hold	invite	make
overtake	show	surround	translate	write

- 1 Many accidents are caused by dangerous driving.
- 2 Cheese is made from milk.
- 3 The roof of the building was damaged in a storm a few days ago.
- 4 You were invited to the wedding. Why didn't you go?
- 5 A cinema is a place where films are shown.
- 6 In the United States, elections for president are held every four years.
- 7 Originally the book was written in Spanish, and a few years ago it was translated into English.
- 8 Although we were driving fast, we were overtaken by a lot of other cars.
- 9 You can't see the house from the road. It is surrounded by trees.

Make sentences from the words in brackets. Sometimes the verb is active, sometimes passive.

- 1 There's somebody behind us. (I think / we / follow) I think we're being followed.
- 2 This room looks different. (you / paint / the walls?) Have you painted the walls?
- 3 My car has disappeared. (it / steal!) It has been stolen.
- 4 My umbrella has disappeared. (somebody / take) Somebody has taken my umbrella.
- 5 Sam gets a higher salary now. (he / promote) He is being promoted.
- 6 Ann can't use her office this week. (it / redecorate) It is being redecorated.
- 7 There was a problem with the photocopier yesterday, but now it's OK. (it / work) It is working again. (it / repair) It is being repaired.
- 8 When I went into the room, I saw that the table and chairs were not in the same place. (the furniture / move) The furniture was moved.
- 9 A neighbour of mine disappeared six months ago. (he / not / see / since then) He hasn't been seen since then.
- 10 I wonder how Jane is these days. (I / not / see / for ages) I haven't seen Jane for ages.
- 11 A friend of mine was mugged on his way home a few nights ago. (you / ever / mug?) Has your friend ever been mugged?

Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using **somebody** or **they** etc., write a passive sentence.

- 1 Somebody has cleaned the room.  
The room has been cleaned.
- 2 Somebody is using the computer right now.  
The computer is being used.
- 3 I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation.  
I didn't realise that someone was recording our conversation.
- 4 When we got to the stadium, we found that they had cancelled the game.  
When we got to the stadium, we found that the game had been cancelled.
- 5 They are building a new ring road round the city.  
A new ring road is being built round the city.
- 6 They have built a new hospital near the airport.  
A new hospital has been built near the airport.