

Passive Voice + Arts



REAL OR FAKE?

News reader Artist Wolfgang Beltracchi has made millions of pounds from his paintings. However, many of the paintings **are not signed** with his own name, but with the names of other famous painters. He is the world's most successful forger, and has fooled the art world for over thirty years. Our reporter Jade Quinn has been investigating. How **was he finally caught**, Jade?

JQ He used the wrong kind of paint in a forgery of a Campendonk painting. The painting **had been bought by a company** who sent it to a forensic art scientist in London. He identified a type of paint which **wasn't being used** when Campendonk was alive.

NR That was careless! What happened to Beltracchi?

JQ He was prosecuted and sent to prison for six years.

NR Fifty-eight of his paintings **have been identified** by police as forgeries and several more **are being examined** by experts. Are there any more?

JQ Beltracchi himself claims that he has forged hundreds of paintings, but he won't say which ones, so they **might never be discovered**.

NR What has he done with the money he earned from the forgeries?

JQ He's spent a lot of it, but some of it **will be returned** to the people who bought his forgeries.

NR Does he still paint in the style of famous artists?

JQ Yes, but now he signs the paintings with his own name.

6 Complete the text with the verbs in brackets. Use active or passive verbs, as appropriate.

- 2** Read the article above. Was it right to send Beltracchi to prison? Why? / Why not?
- 3** Match the highlighted passive forms in the article with 1–9 below. Then find two examples of 9.
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 present simple passive | 5 present perfect passive |
| 2 present continuous passive | 6 past perfect passive |
| 3 past simple passive | 7 will + passive |
| 4 past continuous passive | 8 modal verb + passive |
| | 9 by + agent |
- 4** Study the passive forms in the article. Complete the rules in the **Learn this!** box. Use *action, by, infinitive, subject* and the verb *be*.

LEARN THIS! The passive

- a** We form the passive with ¹ _____ and the past participle of the verb.
- b** We use a passive ² _____ after modal verbs.
- c** The object of an active verb can become the ³ _____ of a passive verb.
They make films in Hollywood. (films = object)
Films are made in Hollywood. (films = subject)
- d** We use the passive when we want to focus on the ⁴ _____ itself, or when we do not know who or what performed the action.
- e** When we want to say who or what performed the action in a passive sentence, we use ⁵ _____.

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5 Make the active sentences passive. Use by where necessary.

- William Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth*.
Macbeth was written by William Shakespeare.
- They are performing a ballet at the concert hall this evening.
- Does Lady Gaga design the costumes?
- How many *Hobbit* films have they made?
- The artist ought to sign the painting.
- Thousands of people will visit the gallery this year.

John Myatt is a British artist. He makes copies of famous works of art, but they ¹ _____ (not sell) as originals. They ² _____ (paint) with ordinary decorator's paint, and the word 'fake' ³ _____ (write) on the back. But it wasn't always like that. In the 1990s, Myatt ⁴ _____ (forge) about 200 paintings. In 1998, he ⁵ _____ (catch) and ⁶ _____ (send) to prison for a year. Since his release from jail, Myatt ⁷ _____ (be) very successful, and his paintings ⁸ _____ (buy) by wealthy people all over the world. He ⁹ _____ (be) now a rich man!

