

PASSIVE VOICE 1B

Study the following active and passive forms:

A

Infinitive

active (to) **do/clean/see** etc.

Somebody **will clean** this room later.

passive (to) **be + done/cleaned/seen** etc.

This room **will be cleaned** later.

- ☐ The situation is serious. Something must **be done** before it's too late.
- ☐ A mystery is something that can't **be explained**.
- ☐ The music was very loud and could **be heard** from a long way away.
- ☐ A new supermarket is going **to be built** next year.
- ☐ Please go away. I want **to be left** alone.

B

Perfect infinitive

active (to) **have + done/cleaned/seen** etc.

Somebody **should have cleaned** the room.

passive (to) **have been + done/cleaned/seen** etc.

The room **should have been cleaned**.

- ☐ I should have received the letter by now. It might **have been sent** to the wrong address.
- ☐ If you had locked the car, it wouldn't **have been stolen**.
- ☐ There were some problems at first, but they seem **to have been solved**.

C

Present perfect

active **have/has + done** etc.

The room looks nice. Somebody **has cleaned** it.

passive **have/has been + done** etc.

The room looks nice. **It has been cleaned**.

- ☐ Have you heard? The trip **has been cancelled**.
- ☐ **Have** you ever **been bitten** by a dog?
- ☐ 'Are you going to the party?' 'No, I **haven't been invited**.'

Past perfect

active **had + done** etc.

The room looked nice. Somebody **had cleaned** it.

passive **had been + done** etc.

The room looked nice. **It had been cleaned**.

- ☐ The vegetables didn't taste good. They **had been cooked** too long.
- ☐ The car was three years old, but **hadn't been used** very much.

D

Present continuous

active **am/is/are + (do)ing**

Somebody **is cleaning** the room at the moment.

passive **am/is/are + being (done)**

The room **is being cleaned** at the moment.

- ☐ There's somebody walking behind us. I think we **are being followed**.
- ☐ (in a shop) 'Can I help you?' 'No, thanks. I'm **being served**.'

Past continuous

active **was/were + (do)ing**

Somebody **was cleaning** the room when I arrived.

passive **was/were + being (done)**

The room **was being cleaned** when I arrived.

- ☐ There was somebody walking behind us. I think we **were being followed**.

Exercises

43.1 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**,

43.2 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 until the next meeting.

4 Do you think that more money should on education?

5 This road is in very bad condition. It should a long time ago.

6 The injured man couldn't walk and had to .

7 I told the hotel receptionist I wanted to at 6.30 the next morning.

8 If you hadn't pushed the policeman, you wouldn't .

9 It's not certain how the fire started, but it might by an electrical fault.

43.3 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

3 I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation.

I didn't realise that

4 When we got to the stadium, we found that they had cancelled the game.

When we got to the stadium, we found that

5 They are building a new ring road round the city.

6 They have built a new hospital near the airport.

43.4 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

4 My umbrella has disappeared. (somebody / take) Somebody

5 Sam gets a higher salary now. (he / promote) He

6 Ann can't use her office this week. (it / redecorate) It

7 There was a problem with the photocopier yesterday, but now it's OK.

(it / work) It again. (it / repair) It

8 When I went into the room, I saw that the table and chairs were not in the same place.

(the furniture / move) The

9 A neighbour of mine disappeared six months ago. (he / not / see / since then)

He

10 I wonder how Jane is these days. (I / not / see / for ages)

I

11 A friend of mine was mugged on his way home a few nights ago. (you / ever / mug?)