

# 8

# Communication breakdown

## The Passive

### GRAMMARZONE

#### Present and past simple

- **be + past participle (+ by)**

The Maths lesson **is followed by** Geography.  
Graham **was given** a medal for bravery.

#### Present and past continuous

- **be + -ing form + past participle (+ by)**

We **'re being taught** by Mrs Derby this term.  
The explorers **were being driven** mad by the flies.

#### Present and past perfect

- **have been + past participle (+ by)**

Sharks **have been seen** in the North Sea.  
We **hadn't been given** any information before the meeting.

#### Future

- **will/are going to + be + past participle (+ by)**

Martin **will be told** the results tomorrow.  
He **is going to be presented** with a gold watch **by** the captain.

#### After modals (would, can, might, etc.)

- **would/can/might etc. + be + past participle**

The children **can be trusted** to clear up after the lesson.

**We use the passive form when we don't know or it doesn't matter who did the action. It is often used in formal English, such as text books and newspaper articles.**

Sulphur dioxide **is combined** with potassium in a test tube.

The Prime Minister **was congratulated** on his speech.

**We use by after the passive verb to say who did the action.**

The card **was signed by** everyone.

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'I don't believe it! **I've been beaten by** a six year old.'

#### 1 Choose the best form of the verb to complete these sentences.

- 1 Robots are **used/using** in many modern factories now.
- 2 Some people say robots that can do housework **will/are** be manufactured soon.
- 3 Our teacher **was given/gave** us a worksheet to do before the test.
- 4 When the new students arrived, they **are/were** shown where to put their coats.
- 5 I hope the football coach **will be chosen/will choose** me for the team!.
- 6 Darius didn't think he **had/had been** given the homework topic by the teacher.
- 7 Some robots will be **powered/powering** by solar panels.
- 8 Jane hates **being/be** listened to while she practises the violin.
- 9 Cameron won't be **forgiven/forgave** for what he did!
- 10 Try to **follow/be followed** the instructions carefully.