

Forming the passive voice

Tense	Auxiliary verb + sample V3 (past participle)	Examples
Present simple	am, is, are + made	Wine is made from grapes. Many cars are made in Japan.
Present progressive	am, is, are + being + sent	The document is being sent right now. I am being sent to work in the London office.
Past simple	was, were + invited	John was invited to speak at the conference. We were invited to Daniel and Mary's wedding.
Past progressive	was, were + being + washed	The dog was being washed when I got home. Their cars were being washed while they were in the mall shopping.
Future (will)	will be + signed	The contract will be signed tomorrow. The documents will all be signed by next week.
Future (going to)	am, is, are + going to be + built	A bridge is going to be built within the next two years. New houses are going to be built in our neighborhood.
Present perfect	has, have + been + sold	That start-up has been sold for \$5 million. The rights to his book have been sold for \$250,000.
Past perfect	had + been + hired	The new manager had been hired before John left the company. All the employees had hired before the store opened.
Future perfect	will + have been + finished	The car will have been loaded by the time he gets home. The crates will have been loaded by then.

1. Complete the sentences about the Statue of Liberty. Use the present or past simple passive forms of the verbs in brackets.

The Statue of Liberty (1) ...*is known*..... (know) around the world as a symbol of America, but it (2) (not make) in America. It (3) (design) in France by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi. It (4) (give) to the United States by the people of France. The statue's head and arm (5) (finish) first. In fact, these parts (6) (make) before the rest of the statue (7) (design). At first, there wasn't enough money to finish the rest of the statue. Finally, enough money (8) (find). Over 120,000 people helped to pay for the statue – most of them gave less than \$1. The rest of the statue (9) (create) in small pieces in France and the pieces (10) (take) to America by ship. Finally, the statue (11) (put) together in New York. It (12) (finish) in 1886. These days, it (13) (visit) by over 3.2 million tourists every year.

2. Rewrite the sentences. Use the passive. Say who does/did the action only if this information is important.

- 1 They make Porsche cars in Germany.
Porsche cars are made in Germany.
- 2 They built the Eiffel Tower in 1889.
.....
- 3 George Orwell wrote the novel Nineteen Eighty-Four in 1949.
.....
- 4 They held the 2012 Olympic Games in London.
.....
- 5 Steven Spielberg directed the film Schindler's List in 1993.
.....
- 6 They grow the best coffee in Colombia.
.....
- 7 They sold two million new cars in the UK last year.
.....
- 8 This factory produces 5,000 bicycles every year.
.....

3. Rewrite these sentences in the passive, using the underlined words as the subject of the sentence. Don't include the doer.

- 1 Somebody wrote the story 200 years ago.
The story was written 200 years ago.
- 2 A company made my car in Germany.
.....
- 3 Bookshops don't sell that book in your country.
.....
- 4 People eat sushi all over the world.
.....
- 5 In the UK, DJs play the number 1 song on the radio every hour.
.....
- 6 Somebody broke a window in the night.
.....
- 7 The journalist didn't describe India very well in the article.
.....

4. Put the words in the correct order to make questions in the passive.

1 made / was / the / where / film

Where was the film made?

2 was / the book / written / when

.....

3 made / cheese / is / how

.....

4 your bike / was / when / stolen

.....

5 the statue / was / in France / made

.....

6 who / her wedding dress / was / designed by

.....

5. Complete the sentences with the active or passive forms of the verbs.

1 This sculpture in 1870. (create)

2 He some very famous photographs. (take)

3 The film on a true story. (base)

4 Spike Johansen the film while he was still a student. (direct)

5 The author the story in a single day while he was on holiday. (write)

6 The car by a company in Milan. (design)

6. Complete the sentences below with the present perfect passive form of the verbs in brackets.

1 Our car (steal).

2 Two important new drugs (develop) this year.

3 The bus stop (damage) again.

4 The boat (not see) for two days.

5 All our money (spend).

6 I hope that painting (not sell).

7. Complete the dialogue using passive present perfect and future forms of the verbs in brackets.

Presenter Can you give us the latest news on this exciting project to build a hotel on the moon?

Scientist The plans for the new hotel 1..... (complete) and a location 2..... (choose).

Presenter So when 3..... (it / build)?

Scientist Well, the exact date 4..... (not decide) until next month at the United Nations meeting. The plans 5..... (approve) at that meeting too.

Presenter And after that?

Scientist After that, the first parts of the hotel 6..... (send) to the moon before the end of the year.

8. Complete the email with the correct present perfect passive and future passive form of the verbs in brackets.

Hey Pat

You'll never guess what's happened. I **1**..... (contact) by the Society of Inventors, and I **2**..... (inform) that next month I **3**..... (give) a prize for the most original invention! I was really shocked because I **4**..... (never / give) any kind of prize before. Some of my devices **5**..... (give) good reviews over the years, but to think that I **6**..... (recognise) in a public ceremony is really exciting! Richard and I **7**..... (introduce) to several important Danish inventors before the ceremony. I hope you **8**..... (invite) to the ceremony. It would be great to see you there.

Love, Kara

9. Complete the text with the passive form of the verbs in brackets. Use the correct tense.

Until 2004, composer Mamoru Samuragochi **1**..... (know) as 'Japan's Beethoven'. He is most famous for his Hiroshima Symphony No. 1, which **2**..... (compose) in 2003 in memory of the people who **3**..... (kill) by the atomic bomb in 1945. It **4**..... (perform) for the first time in 2008 in front of many of the world's most important politicians. But Samuragochi now admits that this piece and many others **5**..... in fact **1**..... (not write) by him, but by another musician. The real composer of the musician's works **6**..... yet (not name), but a man called Takahashi Niigaki recently claimed to have written them. Although a talented composer, it is sad that in the future Samuragochi **7**..... (remember) as a fraud.

10. Write passive sentences with by.

- 1** Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*.
.....
- 2** A group of young men will perform the dance.
.....
- 3** The Queen has opened a new art gallery.
.....
- 4** JJ Abrams directed *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.
.....
- 5** In *The Theory of Everything*, Eddie Redmayne plays the role of Stephen Hawking.
.....

11. Complete the sentences with the passive form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1** This concert should on TV so that everyone can see it. (show)
- 2** The new art gallery by the mayor next Tuesday. (open)
- 3** That TV drama by many people every evening. (watch)
- 4** How many *Hunger Games* films so far? (make)
- 5** The painting *Sunflowers* by van Gosh. (paint)
- 6** An opera in the concert hall later this evening. (perform)