



**42.1** 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

- Many accidents are caused by dangerous driving.
- Cheese ..... from milk.
- The roof of the building ..... in a storm a few days ago.
- You ..... to the wedding. Why didn't you go?
- A cinema is a place where films .....
- In the United States, elections for president ..... every four years.
- Originally the book ..... in Spanish, and a few years ago it ..... into English.
- Although we were driving fast, we ..... by a lot of other cars.
- You can't see the house from the road. It ..... by trees.

**42.2** Write questions using the passive. Some are present and some are past.

- Ask about glass. (how / make?) How is glass made?
- Ask about television. (when / invent?) .....
- Ask about mountains. (how / form?) .....
- Ask about antibiotics. (when / discover?) .....
- Ask about silver. (what / use for?) .....

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

- It's a big factory. Five hundred people are employed (employ) there.
- Did somebody clean (somebody / clean) this room yesterday?
- Water ..... (cover) most of the earth's surface.
- How much of the earth's surface ..... (cover) by water?
- The park gates ..... (lock) at 6.30 p.m. every evening.
- The letter ..... (send) a week ago and it (arrive) ..... yesterday.
- The boat hit a rock and ..... (sink) quickly. Fortunately everybody ..... (rescue).
- Robert's parents ..... (die) when he was very young. He and his sister ..... (bring up) by their grandparents.
- I was born in London, but I ..... (grow up) in Canada.
- While I was on holiday, my camera ..... (steal) from my hotel room.
- While I was on holiday, my camera ..... (disappear) from my hotel room.
- Why ..... (Sue / resign) from her job? Didn't she enjoy it?
- Why ..... (Ben / fire) from his job? Did he do something wrong?
- The company is not independent. It ..... (own) by a much larger company.
- I saw an accident last night. Somebody ..... (call) an ambulance but nobody ..... (injure), so the ambulance ..... (not / need).
- Where ..... (these pictures / take)? In London? ..... (you / take) them, or somebody else?
- Sometimes it's quite noisy living here, but it's not a problem for me - I ..... (not / bother) by it.

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

- Somebody cleans the room every day. The room is cleaned every day.
- They cancelled all flights because of fog. All .....
- People don't use this road much. ....
- Somebody accused me of stealing money. I .....
- How do people learn languages? How .....
- People warned us not to go out alone. ....

## Passive 2 (be done / been done / being done)

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 <b>washable</b> , <i>it can be washed</i> ..... | 4 <b>unusable</b> , .....  |
| 2 <b>unbreakable</b> , it .....                   | 5 <b>invisible</b> , ..... |
| 3 <b>edible</b> , .....                           | 6 <b>portable</b> , .....  |

**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.).

- The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.
- I should have received the letter by now. It might have been sent to the wrong address.
- A decision will not ..... until the next meeting.
- Do you think that more money should ..... on education?
- This road is in very bad condition. It should ..... a long time ago.
- The injured man couldn't walk and had to .....
- I told the hotel receptionist I wanted to ..... at 6.30 the next morning.
- If you hadn't pushed the policeman, you wouldn't .....
- 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.

- Somebody has cleaned the room.  
The room has been cleaned.
- Somebody is using the computer right now.  
The computer .....
- I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation.  
I didn't realise that .....
- When we got to the stadium, we found that they had cancelled the game.  
When we got to the stadium, we found that .....
- They are building a new ring road round the city.  
.....
- 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.

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

## A I was offered ... / we were given ... etc.

Some verbs can have two objects. For example, **give**:

- Somebody gave **the police the information**. (= somebody gave the information to the police)
- object 1                      object 2

So it is possible to make two passive sentences:

- The police** were given the information. *or*  
**The information** was given to the police.

Other verbs which can have two objects are:

**ask   offer   pay   show   teach   tell**

When we use these verbs in the passive, most often we begin with the *person*:

- I've been offered** the job, but I don't think I'll accept it. (= they have offered me the job)
- You will be given** plenty of time to decide. (= we will give you plenty of time)
- I didn't see the original document but **I was shown** a copy. (= somebody showed me.)
- Tim has an easy job – **he's paid** a lot of money to do very little. (= they pay him a lot)

## B I don't like being ...

The passive of **doing/seeing** etc. is **being done / being seen** etc. Compare:

*active*    I don't like **people telling me** what to do.

*passive*    I don't like **being told** what to do.

- I remember **being taken** to the zoo when I was a child.  
(= I remember somebody taking me to the zoo)
- Steve hates **being kept** waiting. (= he hates people keeping him waiting)
- We managed to climb over the wall without **being seen**. (= without anybody seeing us)

## C I was born ...

We say 'I was born ...' (*not* I am born):

- I **was born** in Chicago.
- Where **were** you **born**? (*not* Where are you born?) } *past*

*but*

- How many babies **are born** every day?                      *present*

## D Get

You can use **get** instead of **be** in the passive:

- There was a fight at the party, but nobody **got hurt**. (= nobody **was** hurt)
- I don't **get invited** to many parties. (= I'm not invited)
- I'm surprised Liz **didn't get offered** the job. (= Liz **wasn't offered** the job)

We use **get** only when things *happen*. For example, you cannot use **get** in these sentences:

- Jessica **is liked** by everybody. (*not* gets liked – this is not a 'happening')
- Peter was a mystery man. Very little **was known** about him. (*not* got known)

We use **get** mainly in informal spoken English. You can use **be** in all situations.

We also use **get** in the following expressions (which are not passive in meaning):

**get married, get divorced**

**get lost** (= not know where you are)

**get dressed** (= put on your clothes)

**get changed** (= change your clothes)

# Exercises

44.1 Write these sentences in another way, beginning in the way shown.

- 1 They didn't give me the information I needed.  
I wasn't given the information I needed.
- 2 They asked me some difficult questions at the interview.  
I .....
- 3 Amy's colleagues gave her a present when she retired.  
Amy .....
- 4 Nobody told me about the meeting.  
I wasn't .....
- 5 How much will they pay you for your work?  
How much will you .....
- 6 I think they should have offered Tom the job.  
I think Tom .....
- 7 Has anybody shown you what to do?  
Have you .....

44.2 Complete the sentences using **being** + the following verbs (in the correct form):

give    invite    ~~keep~~    knock down    stick    treat

- 1 Steve hates being kept waiting.
- 2 We went to the party without .....
- 3 I like giving presents and I also like ..... them.
- 4 It's a busy road and I don't like crossing it. I'm afraid of .....
- 5 I'm an adult. I don't like ..... like a child.
- 6 You can't do anything about ..... in a traffic jam.

44.3 When were they born? Choose five of these people and write a sentence for each. (Two of them were born in the same year.)

Ludwig van Beethoven	Mahatma Gandhi	Elvis Presley	1452	1869	1935
<del>Walt Disney</del>	Michael Jackson	William Shakespeare	1564	<del>1901</del>	1958
Galileo	Martin Luther King	Leonardo da Vinci	1770	1929	

- 1 Walt Disney was born in 1901.
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 And you? I .....

44.4 Complete the sentences using **get/got** + the following verbs (in the correct form):

ask    damage    ~~hurt~~    pay    steal    sting    stop    use

- 1 There was a fight at the party, but nobody got hurt.
- 2 Alex ..... by a bee while he was sitting in the garden.
- 3 These tennis courts don't ..... very often. Not many people want to play.
- 4 I used to have a bicycle, but it ..... a few months ago.
- 5 Rachel works hard but doesn't ..... very much.
- 6 Last night I ..... by the police as I was driving home. One of the lights on my car wasn't working.
- 7 Please pack these things very carefully. I don't want them to .....
- 8 People often want to know what my job is. I ..... that question a lot.

# It is said that ... He is said to ... He is supposed to ...

A

Study this example situation:



George is very old. Nobody knows exactly how old he is, but:

It is said that he is 108 years old.

or He is said to be 108 years old.

Both these sentences mean: 'People say that he is 108 years old.'

You can use these structures with a number of other verbs, especially:

**alleged believed considered expected known reported thought understood**

Compare the two structures:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cathy loves running.<br><b>It is said that</b> she runs ten miles a day.   | or She <b>is said to run</b> ten miles a day.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The police are looking for a missing boy.<br><b>It is believed that</b> the boy is wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. | or The boy <b>is believed to be wearing</b> a white sweater and blue jeans. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The strike started three weeks ago.<br><b>It is expected that</b> the strike will end soon.                                | or The strike <b>is expected to end</b> soon.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friend of mine has been arrested.<br><b>It is alleged that</b> he hit a policeman.                                       | or He <b>is alleged to have hit</b> a policeman.                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The two houses belong to the same family.<br><b>It is said that</b> there is a secret tunnel between them.                 | or There <b>is said to be</b> a secret tunnel between them.                 |

These structures are often used in news reports. For example, in a report about an accident:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>It is reported that</b> two people were injured in the explosion. | or Two people <b>are reported to have been injured</b> in the explosion. |
|---|--|

B

**(Be) supposed to**

Sometimes **(it is) supposed to ...** = (it is) said to ... :

- I want to see that film. **It's supposed to be good.** (= it is said to be good)
- Fireworks **are supposed to have been invented** in China. Is it true?

But sometimes **supposed to** has a different meaning. We use **supposed to** to say what is intended, arranged or expected. Often this is different from the real situation:

- The plan **is supposed to be** a secret, but everybody seems to know about it.  
(= the plan is intended to be a secret)
- What are you doing at work? You're **supposed to be** on holiday.  
(= you arranged to be on holiday)
- Our guests **were supposed to come** at 7.30, but they were late.
- Jane **was supposed to phone** me last night, but she didn't.
- I'd better hurry. I'm **supposed to be meeting** Chris in ten minutes.

You're **not supposed to** do something = it is not allowed or advisable:

- You're **not supposed to park** your car here. It's private parking only.
- Jeff is much better after his illness, but he's still **not supposed to do** any heavy work.

# Exercises

**45.1** Write these sentences in another way, beginning as shown. Use the underlined word each time.

- 1 It is expected that the strike will end soon. The strike *is expected to end soon.*
- 2 It is expected that the weather will be good tomorrow.  
The weather is .....
- 3 It is believed that the thieves got in through a window in the roof.  
The thieves .....
- 4 It is reported that many people are homeless after the floods.  
Many people .....
- 5 It is thought that the prisoner escaped by climbing over a wall.  
The prisoner .....
- 6 It is alleged that the man was driving at 110 miles an hour.  
The man .....
- 7 It is reported that the building has been badly damaged by the fire.  
The building .....
- 8 a It is said that the company is losing a lot of money.  
The company .....
- b It is believed that the company lost a lot of money last year.  
The company .....
- c It is expected that the company will make a loss this year.  
The company .....

**45.2** There are a lot of rumours about Alan. Here are some of the things people say about him:

1 Alan speaks ten languages.

2 He knows a lot of famous people.

3 He is very rich.

4 He has twelve children.

5 He was an actor when he was younger.



**Alan**

Nobody is sure whether these things are true. Write sentences about Alan using **supposed to**.

- 1 *Alan is supposed to speak ten languages.*
- 2 He .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**45.3** Complete the sentences using **supposed to be** + the following:

on a diet    a flower    my friend    a joke    ~~a secret~~    working

- 1 How is it that everybody seems to know about the plan? It *is supposed to be a secret.*
- 2 You shouldn't criticise me all the time. You .....
- 3 I shouldn't be eating this cake really. I .....
- 4 I'm sorry for what I said. I was trying to be funny. It .....
- 5 What's this drawing? Is it a tree? Or maybe it .....
- 6 You shouldn't be reading the paper now. You .....

**45.4** Write sentences with **supposed to** + the following verbs:

block    depart    ~~park~~    phone    ~~start~~

Use the negative (**not supposed to**) where necessary.

- 1 You *'re not supposed to park* here. It's private parking only.
- 2 We ..... work at 8.15, but we rarely do anything before 8.30.
- 3 Oh, I ..... Helen last night, but I completely forgot.
- 4 This door is a fire exit. You ..... it.
- 5 My flight ..... at 11.30, but it was an hour late.