**THE PASSIVE VOICE (From** [**http://www.miguelmllop.com/grammars/mygrammar/passive.pdf**](http://www.miguelmllop.com/grammars/mygrammar/passive.pdf)**)**

**INTRODUCTORY NOTES.**

The passive is frequently used in English to express ideas that require a reflexive or

impersonal construction in other languages, and in many cases is also used where the other

languages use the active.

It is assumed that students will already know how to construct the passive of the finite verb

forms, but the non-finite forms may be less familiar:

Active Passive

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Infinitive | to choose | to be chosen |
| Perfect infinitive | to have chosen | to have been chosen |
| Participle and gerund | choosing | being chosen |
| Perfect participle and  gerund | having chosen | having been chosen |

Bearing in mind that the passive is far commoner in English than in some other languages, students must know when to use it: converting active into passive (and vice versa) may be useful for practice purposes, but the process is essentially an artificial one. The following observations may serve as a general guide:

1. When the active form would involve the use of an indefinite or vague pronoun or noun as

subject, we generally prefer to use the passive (the agent with "by" is not expressed):

a*. I've been robbed!* (someone has robbed me!)

b. *The building had to be demolished*. (they had to demolish the building.)

c. *It is assumed that the Government will do something to relieve the situation*. (People

assume that the Government will do something to relieve the situation)

2. The passive provides a means of avoiding an awkward change of subject in the middle of

the sentence: *The Prime Minister arrived back in London last night, and was immediately besieged by reporters*. (The Prime Minister arrived back in London last night, and reporters

immediately besieged him.)

3. The passive may be used when we wish to make an statement sound impersonal (perhaps out of modesty, or when we have some unpleasant statement to make). The management of a company might be quite happy to announce:

*The new working methods that are to be introduced may result in some redundancies*.

Similarly, we may express more impersonally, and thus more forcibly, the order given in a

below, by using the passive as in b:

a. You must tidy up this room.

b. *This room must be tidied up.*

4. The passive is not, therefore, simply an equivalent alternative to the active. While both

forms of expressing an idea may be syntactically possible, we tend to choose the passive

for one of the reasons described above, or if we are interested in what happened to "X"

rather than what "Y" did:

a. *The escaped convict was arrested two days later*.

(The police arrested the escaped convict two days later.)

b. *Several trees were struck by lightning in last night's storm*.

(Lightning struck several trees in last night's storm)

In a, the passive is used because we are interested in what happened to the escaped

convict; and the agent is omitted, not, as in earlier examples, because it is a vague or

indefinite noun, but because it is self-evident from the context.

In b, the passive form is to be preferred to the active, even though the agent is neither

vague nor self-evident, again because we are more interested in what happened to the trees

than in what the lightning did.

5. Some ideas, however, may be expressed naturally and effectively in either the active or the passive form:

a. *France beat England in yesterday's rugby international.*

b*. England was beaten by France in yesterday's rugby international*.

In such sentences our choice will depend on what we regard as the "focus of interest" in

the sentence.

Some common verbs may be used in combination with adverbs to form "phrasal verbs"

with idiomatic meanings: put off = postpone. Students should take care to retain the particle with such verbs in a passive construction.

There is one particular construction in the passive that may appear strange to students. In a sentence like the following, there are two objects, one direct and one indirect:

*The crowd gave the King a great reception*.

If this is expressed in the passive, we generally make the indirect object the subject,

especially as the indirect object in this type of sentence is, more often than not, personal, and we tend to be more interested in persons than things. Furthermore, the person will generally be more particularized than the thing, and may, in the subject position, help to establish the context of the sentence more readily:

*The King was given a great reception by the crowd*.

There are occasions, however, when we wish to make the direct object the subject (or, we

might say, the "focus of interest") of the passive construction. In such cases, we would be

implying a greater interest in what is done than to whom it is done:

a. *We shall offer a high salary to a really suitable applicant*. (active)

b. *A high salary will be offered to a really suitable applicant*. (passive)

Another type of sentence that has two possible forms in the passive is that consisting of

Subject+Verb (say, feel, expect, etc.)+Noun clause Object: (Impersonal Passive)

a*. They say that he knows some very influential people*.

b. *People felt that the social workers were doing valuable work*.

c. *Everyone thought that the government had shown scant regard for public opinion*.

The ideas expressed in these sentences would, for reasons of style, generally be presented

in the passive. One possible construction is that where the sentence is introduced by the

impersonal it:

a. *It is said that he knows some very influential people*.

b. *It was felt that the social workers were doing valuable work.*

c. *It was thought that the Government had shown scant regard for public opinion*.

The use of this impersonal construction in the passive is preferable to the use of a vague or

indefinite pronoun as subject in the active. But in many cases a third construction is possible:

The subject of the noun clause may be made the subject of the whole sentence in the passive. A special characteristic of this construction is that the verb in the noun clause takes the infinitive form:

a. *He is said to know very influential people*.

b. *The social workers were felt to be doing valuable work*.

c. *The Government was thought to have shown scant regard for public opinion*.

Note: Sentences "b" and "c" can, of course, be directly related to corresponding sentences in the active using the infinitive:

b. *People felt the social workers to be doing valuable work*.

c. *Everyone thought the Government to have shown scant regard for public opinion*.

There are two points to note here, however:

1. In the active sentences, a construction with a that clause is commoner than the infinitive,

whereas in the passive the infinitive is preferred where it is structurally possible.

2. The infinitive construction in the passive does not necessarily represent a transformation

of a corresponding infinitive in the active.

The form of the infinitive depends on whether or not the time reference of the verb in the

noun clause is the same as that of the verb in the introductory (main) clause. If the time reference is the same, use the present infinitive:

It is said that he knows some very influential people.

=He is said to know some very influential people.

It was said that he knew =He was said to know some very influential people.

If the verb in the noun clause has a time reference anterior to that of the verb in the main

clause, use the "perfect infinitive":

It is thought that he acted =He is thought to have acted very foolishly.

It was thought that he had acted =He was thought to have acted very foolishly.

**Causative Passive: *HAVE/GET SOMETHING DONE***

1. **Intentional use**

Compare these sentences:

‘I painted my house last month’ It means I did the work myself

‘I **had/got** my house **painted** last month’ It means that someone else did the work for me

If you 'have something done', you get somebody else to do something for you.

* I'm going to have my hair cut.
* She's having her house redecorated.
* I'm having a copy of the report sent to you

**Get something done** suggests more effort than **Have something done**

**‘***I’m going to the photographer’s to get my photograph taken’*, but when we arrive, we say:

‘*I’ve come to have my photograph taken’*

*\*Some grammars say “Get” is just more informal than “Have” in the causative form.* In informal English, we can replace 'have' by 'get'.

* We're getting a new telephone system installed.
* They will be getting the system repaired as quickly as they can.
* I got the bill sent direct to the company.

**2. Unintentional use.** It is the same construction : Things happen to us but *we do not want them to happen* or *ask for them to be done*

The construction with ***Have*** suggests the subject was quite innocent, with ***Get*** *suggests that*the subject was partially responsible for what happened to him

‘I **had** my watch stolen last night’ (I didn’t have anything to do with it).

‘I **got** my nose broken in a fight’ ( I was also fighting and doing harm).

We can also use 'have/got something done' in situations where something bad has happened to people or their possessions. This is not something they wanted to happen.

* John had all his money stolen from his hotel bedroom.
* We had our car damaged by a falling tree.
* I got my nose broken playing rugby.

**EXERCISES**

**1. Write in the passive.**

1. Peter bought the house

2. Mary will bring the wine

3. My friends are repairing the car

4. Most students speak English in this class

5. An elderly couple sheltered her

6. A policeman helped him

7. She finished her work by nine o'clock

8. Nobody can repair this broken chair

9. They carried him into the hospital

10.Are they typing the letters?

11.They have not taken the car into the garage

12.Someone has spilt some milk on the carpet

13.Did anyone answer your question?

14.They showed me the cathedral

15.They told the children to leave the room

16.They allowed her to go to the dining room

17.They didn't tell me the truth

18.Someone will give you a new notebook

19.Someone is teaching him English

20.They had offered me a job

21.Someone has read her the letter

22.Nobody has slept in this bed

23.They looked after the baby

24.They have been looking at her for hours

25.They smiled at the girl as she walked by

26.People speak well of your friend

27.We must look for the key

28.People say that the president will arrive on Monday

29.People think that money is the most important thing in life

30.They thought that he was an artist

31.They think I come from Italy

32.People feared that the criminals would escape

33.People hope that prices won't go up this year

34.People generally assume that the USA is the richest country in the world

**2. Write in the active:**

1.    We are taught grammar by Ms Sullivan.  
2.    He was praised by the teacher.  
3.    The injured were taken to the hospital by the firemen.  
4.    The town was destroyed by an earthquake.  
5.    The teacher was pleased with the boy’s work.  
6.    The building was damaged by the fire.  
7.    By whom were you taught French?  
8.    You will be given a ticket by the manager.  
9.    The streets were thronged with spectators.  
10.    We will be blamed by everyone.  
11.    The trees were blown down by the wind.  
12.    The thieves were caught by the police.  
13.    The letter was posted by Alice.  
14.    We were received by the hostess.  
15.    The snake was killed with a stick.  
16.    The minister was welcomed by the people.  
17.    He was found guilty of murder.  
18.    This house was built by John Mathews in 1991.

**3. Complete the sentences with a passive construction, using the verbs given in the form suggested**.

1. Much of London (destroy) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by fire in the seventeenth century. (Past Simple)

2. The man who (bite)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by a snake was given a serum. (Past Perfect)

3. A leader should be a man who can (respect)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Infinitive)

4. Many slums (demolish) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make way for new buildings. (Present Continuous.)

5. The police (instruct) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take firm action against hooligans. (Present Perfect)

6. He (save)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from bankruptcy by the kindness of a friend. (Past Simple)

7. A cease-fire (expect) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (declare) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ later this week. (Present Simple, Infinitive)

8. A great deal of research (do)\_\_ \_\_\_\_ into possible causes of cancer (Present Perfect)

9. The worker claimed that he (victimize)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by his employers. (Past Continuous)

10. The tenant (evict)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for not paying his rent. (Past Simple)

11. It (think) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the Government would do something to help. (Past Perfect)

12. Three hundred new houses (build) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the end of next year. (Future Perfect)

13. Because of a strike, work on the building had to (discontinue)\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Infinitive)

14. The witness strongly objected to (cross-examine)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Gerund)

15. (Threaten)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by a blackmailer, he immediately informed the police.

(Perfect Participle)

16. I am not accustomed to (treat)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in that way. (Gerund)

17. The passengers ought (inform) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the train (withdraw)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from service. (Perfect Infinitive. Past Perfect)

18. Customers (ask) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that they (give)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the correct change before leaving the shop, as mistakes cannot

afterwards (rectify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Present Simple, Present Perfect, Infinitive)

19. Was he very upset at (not offer)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the job? (Gerund)

20. The man was sent to prison for six months, (find) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ guilty of fraud. (Perfect Participle)

**4. Complete the sentences with a passive construction after deciding the tense, using the verbs given**

1. In 1987, an emergency decisión \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_after the oilspill. (take)   
2. This morning, aerosol sprays \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from the perfume department. (remove)   
3. Next month this river \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (clean up)   
4. The 'hole' in the ozone layer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by scientists for 30 years. ( notice)   
5. If cars \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from the area, we will soon suffer from respiratory illnesses. (not ban)   
6. If a nuclear bomb exploded, the earth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (destroy)   
7. Scientists say that the ozone layer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by chemicals. (destroy)

**5. Rewrite the sentences in the passive, making the words in italics the subject of the sentence or clause in which they appear.**

1. They gave *the oldest councilor* the freedom of the city.

2. They denied *access to the secret documents* to all but a few.

3. Someone showed *the child* how to use the telephone.

4. They declared *him* persona non grata and allowed him only forty-eight hours to leave the

country.

5. They gave *him* artificial respiration.

6. Why didn't they offer him the job?

7. Didn't they promise *you* a rise in salary at the beginning of the year?

8. Someone left *him* a legacy of 10.000.

9. When he looked at the stamps, he found they had sold *him* forgeries.

10. What did they pay *you* for doing the job?

11. Someone should tell *him* never to do that again.

12. They asked *you* to meet me here at 11 o'clock, not half past.

13. Will someone send *me* the details?

14. We shall send you *the godos* as soon as they are available.

15. Someone must teach *that boy* a lesson!

**6. Make questions to which the underlined words are the answers:**

1. Peter was accused of murder

2. No, it hasn't been answered

3. He was arrested because he hit a man.

4. Few of the girls have been invited.

5. George has been taken to hospital.

6. It will be done next month.

7. The first experiment was made in 1950.

8. It has been tried three times.

9. She was punished by Mr West.

10. He has been asked to leave the house.

11. It was meant for Helen.

12. I was invited by John.

13. Yes , it has already been completed.

14. This book has been translated into 5 languages.

15. It must be written in ink.

16. It was written by Jean.

17. The book was found under the table.

18. They have been told to come.

19. It was signed yesterday

20. It was beautifully written.

**7. Rewrite these sentences in an alternative passive form, beginning your sentences with the words in italics.**

1. It is said that *he* is an honest, hard-working man.

2. It is considered that *this surgeon* is a brilliant practitioner.

3. It is now thought that *some redundancy in the Midlands* is inevitable.

4. It was proved that *the statements he had made* were false.

5. It was understood that *Mr Smith* was willing to meet the British Prime Minister.

6. It is believed that *the Chancellor* is thinking of imposing special taxes to raise extra revenue.

7. It is expected that *the electricity supply industry* will be running into surplus capacity by

next year.

8. It is reported that *several American motor manufacturers* are planning to set up assembly

plants overseas.

9. It is expected that *the brewers* will raise the price of beer in the near future.

10. It was claimed that *the drug* produced no undesirable side-effects.

11. It is said that *the police* acted with great restraint, despite provocation.

12. It was alleged that *the Prime Minister* had misled the House

13. It is believed that *the Government* has had second thoughts on this problem.

14. It was believed that *the explosion* had been caused by a mine.

15. It is presumed that *the ship's radio equipment* was put out of the action during the fire.

16. It was later admitted that *the information* had been obtained from unreliable sources.

**Causative Passive exercises**

**1. Complete the sentences and make clear that the people don't / didn't do it themselves. (The first sentence is given as an example.)**

*Yesterday, (I / cut / my hair)* ***I had my hair cut***

1. Every Friday, (Joe / wash / his car) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Tomorrow, (she / repair / her shower) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Each Saturday, (we / deliver / a pizza)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to our home.

4. Last year, (Bob / clean / his house)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by a charwoman.

5. As Phil had a broken arm, (he / type / his texts) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by his secretary.

6. (I / pick up / the goods) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_tomorrow in the afternoon.

7. (we / redecorate / our walls) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_last summer.

8. Whenever Clara is staying at this hotel, (she / carry / her bags)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into her room.

9. (we / organize / our last party) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by professionals.

**2. Complete the sentences with the correct form of have and the verb in brackets.**1.  My hair's getting far too long.  I need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (cut)  
2.  Noah hates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  his photo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (take)  
3.  I've lost my key so I'd better \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  another one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . (make)  
4.  My watch isn't working properly.  I ought to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  it  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (repair)  
5.  I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my suit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as there's a coffee stain on the sleeve. (dryclean)  
6.  It's time we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our car \_\_\_\_\_\_ . (service)  
7.  Katie can't find a wedding dress she likes so she's considering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (make)  
8.  As this summer is expected to be really hot we're planning on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ air-conditioning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (instal)  
9.  Jenny's worried she may have a high cholesterol level so she wants to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (check out)  
10. The police suspected the fugitive was hiding somewhere in the building so they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (search)

**3. Fill the gaps with *have* and the verb in brackets in their correct forms.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the roof \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ last year. It cost us a packet. (repair) |
| 2 | Anne \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her hair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ every Friday afternoon. (do) |
| 3 | I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the brakes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ three times a year. (check) |
| 4 | The government \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the whole town \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yesterday. (evacuate) |
| 5 | I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my hard drive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a bigger one last week. (change) |
| 6 | When did you last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the airconditioning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ? (service) |
| 7 | You don't think Liv Tyler's beautiful?! You should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your eyes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (test) |
| 8 | After the plague of fleas, the boss \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the office \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (disinfect) |
| 9 | Your cat's coughing. You need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for parasites. (treat) |
| 10 | Daphne \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her legs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ once a fortnight. (do) |
| 11 | I normally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my suit dry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before a wedding. (clean) |
| 12 | The headmaster \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all the lockers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the missing footballs yesterday. (search) |
| 13 | Have you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your house \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ? (double-glaze) |
| 14 | Have you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that poster I bought you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yet? (frame) |
| 15 | The house is in chaos. We're \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a new kitchen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in. (put) |

**4. Rewrite these sentences using *have* or *get*.**

1. The mechanic changed the oil in my car.

2. The hairdresser cut my hair in a completely different style.

3. A decorator has repainted our house.

4. A friend of mine, who´s an electrician, is going to repair my DVD player next week.

5. My jacket is being cleaned at a specialist cleaner´s.

6. The town hall has just been rebuilt for the council.

**5. Match a word from 1-8 with something that is done by that person or in that place. Then make sentences using all the information and the verb in brackets.**

1. hairdresser´s vaccinate dogs (have)

2. optician´s do annual accounts (have)

3. dentist´s service cars (get)

4. doctor´s test eyes (have)

5. vet´s design new houses (have)

6. garage cut hair (get)

7. architect take out teeth (have)

8. accountant take blood pressure

Example:

1. Tomorrow I´m going to the hairdresser´s to get my hair cut.

2. Yesterday…

3. This afternoon…

4. Last week…

5. Next Saturday…

6. The day before yesterday…

7. Last year…

8. Next week…

**KEY TO THE EXERCISES:**

**1. Write in the passive.**

1. The house was bought by Peter

2. The wine will be brought by Mary

3. The car is being repaied by my friends

4. English is spokenin this class by most students.

5. She was sheltered by an elderly couple.

6. He was helped by a policeman

7. Her work was finished by nine o'clock.

8. This broken chair can’t be repaired.

9. He was carried into the hospital

10.Are the letters being typed?

11.The carhasn’t been taken into the garage

12.Some milk has been spilt on the carpet

13. Was your question answered?

14. I was shown the cathedral/ The cathedral was shown to me

15. the children were told to leave the room

16.She was allowed to go to the dining room

17. I wasn’t told the truth/ The truth wasn’t told to me

18. You will be given a new notebook/ A new notebook will be given to you

19. He is being taught English / English is being told to him

20. I had been offered a job/ I job had been offered to me

21. She has been read the letter / The letter has been read to her

22.This bed hasn’t been slept in

23.The baby was looked after

24. She has been being looked at for hours

25.The girl was smiled at as she walked by

26.Your friend is wll spoken of

27.The key must be looked for

28.The president is said to arrive on Monday /It is said (that) the president will arrive on Monday

29.Money is thought to be the most important thing in life / It is thought that money is the most important thing in life

30.It is thought that he was an artist / He is thought to be an artist

31.It is thought I come from Italy / I am thought to come from Italy

32.It is feared that the criminals would escape /The criminals are feared to escape

33.It is hoped that prices won't go up this year / Prices are hoped not to go up this year

34.It is generally assume that the USA is the richest country in the world / The USA is generally assumed to be the richest country in the world

**2. Write in the active:**

1.    Ms Sullivan **teaches** us grammar.  
2.    The teacher **praised** him.  
3.    The firemen **took** the injured to the hospital.  
4.    An earthquake **destroyed** the town.  
5.    The boy’s work **pleased** the teacher.  
6.    The fire **damaged** the building.  
7.    Who **taught** you French?  
8.    The manager **will give** you a ticket.  
9.    Spectators **thronged** the streets.  
10.    Everyone **will blame** us.  
11.    The wind **blew down** the trees.  
12.    The police **caught** the thieves.  
13.    Alice **posted** the letter.  
14.    The hostess **received** us.  
15.    They/somebody **killed** the snake with a stick.  
16.    The people **welcomed** the minister.  
17.    They **found** him guilty of murder.  
18.    John Mathews **built** this house in 1991.

**3. Complete the sentences with a passive construction, using the verbs given in the form suggested**.

1. Much of London (destroy) \_\_**was destroyed**\_\_ by fire in the seventeenth century.

(Past Simple)

2. The man who (bite)\_\_\_**had been bitten**\_\_ by a snake was given a serum. (Past Perfect)

3. A leader should be a man who can (respect)\_\_\_**be respected**\_\_. (Infinitive)

4. Many slums (demolish) \_**are being demolished**\_ to make way for new buildings. (Present

Continuous.)

5. The police (instruct) \_\_**has been instructed**\_\_ to take firm action against hooligans.

(Present Perfect)

6. He (save)\_\_**was saved**\_\_ from bankruptcy by the kindness of a friend. (Past

Simple)

7. A cease-fire (expect) \_\_**is expected**\_\_ (declare) \_\_to be declared\_\_ later this

week. (Present Simple, Infinitive)

8. A great deal of research (do)\_\_**has been d**one\_\_\_ into possible causes of cancer

(Present Perfect)

9. The worker claimed that he (victimize)\_\_**was being victimized**\_\_ by his employers. (Past

Continuous)

10. The tenant (evict)\_\_**was evicted**\_\_ for not paying his rent. (Past Simple)

11. It (think) \_**had been thought**\_\_ that the Government would do something to help. (Past Perfect)

12. Three hundred new houses (build) \_\_**will have been bought**\_\_ by the end of next year.

(Future Perfect)

13. Because of a strike, work on the building had to (discontinue)\_\_**be discontinued**\_.

(Infinitive)

14. The witness strongly objected to (cross-examine)\_\_**being cross-examined**\_\_. (Gerund)

15. (Threaten)\_\_**Having been threatened**\_\_ by a blackmailer, he immediately informed the police. (Perfect Participle)

16. I am not accustomed to (treat)\_\_\_**being threatened**\_\_ in that way. (Gerund)

17. The passengers ought (inform) \_\_**to have been informed**\_\_ the train (withdraw)

\_\_**had been withdrawn**\_\_ from service. (Perfect Infinitive. Past Perfect)

18. Customers (ask) \_**are asked**\_\_ to ensure that they (give)

\_\_**have been given**\_ the correct change before leaving the shop, as mistakes cannot

afterwards (rectify)\_\_**be rectified**\_\_. (Present Simple, Present Perfect, Infinitive)

19. Was he very upset at (not offer)\_\_\_**not being offered**\_\_ the job? (Gerund)

20. The man was sent to prison for six months, (find) \_\_**having been found**\_ guilty of fraud. (Perfect Participle)

**4. Complete the sentences with a passive construction after deciding the tense, using the verbs given**

1. In 1987, an emergency decisión \_\_\_**was taken**\_\_after the oilspill. (take)   
2. This morning, aerosol sprays \_**have been removed**\_from the perfume department. (remove)   
3. Next month this river \_\_**will be cleaned up / is being cleaned up / is going to be cleaned up**\_\_. (clean up)   
4. The 'hole' in the ozone layer\_\_\_**has been noticed**\_\_by scientists for 30 years. (notice)   
5. If cars \_**are not banned**\_\_\_from the area, we will soon suffer from respiratory illnesses. (not ban)   
6. If a nuclear bomb exploded, the earth\_\_**would be destroyed**\_. (destroy)   
7. Scientists say that the ozone layer\_\_**is being destroyed**\_by chemicals. (destroy).

**5. Rewrite the sentences in the passive, making the words in italics the subject of the sentence or clause in which they appear.**

1. T*he oldest councilor was given* the freedom of the city.

2. A*ccess to the secret documents* *was denied* to all but a few.

3. T*he child* was shown how to use the telephone.

4. He was declared persona non grata and was allowed only forty-eight hours to leave the

country.

5. He was given artificial respiration.

6. Why wasn’t he offered the job/ Why wasn’t the job offered to him?

7. Weren’t you promised a rise in salary at the beginning of the year?

8. He was left a legacy of 10.000.

9. When he looked at the stamps, he found they he had been sold forgeries.

10. What were you paid for doing the job?

11. He should told never to do that again.

12. You were asked to meet me here at 11 o'clock, not half past.

13. Will I be sent the details?

14. *The godos* will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

15. T*hat boy* must be taught a lesson!

**6. Make questions to which the underlined words are the answers:**

*1. What was Peter accused of ? murder*

*2. Has it been answered?*

*3. Why was he arrested? because he hit a man.*

*4. How many of the girls have been invited? Few*

*5. Where has George been taken to? hospital.*

*6. When will it be done? next month.*

*7. When was the first experiment made? in 1950.*

*8. How many times has it been tried? three times.*

*9. Who was she punished by? Mr West.*

*10. What has hebeen asked? to leave the house.*

*11. Who was it meant for? Helen.*

*12. Who was I invited by? John.*

*13. Has it already been completed. Yes*

*14. How many languages has this book been translated into? Into 5 languages.*

*15. How must itbe written? in ink.*

*16. Who was it written by? Jean.*

*17. Where was the book found? under the table.*

*18. What have they been told? to come.*

*19. When was it signed? yesterday*

*20. How was it written? beautifully*

**7. Rewrite these sentences in an alternative passive form, beginning your sentences with the words in italics.**

*1*. *He is said to be an honest, hard-working man.*

*2. This surgeonis considered to be is a brilliant practitioner.*

*3. Some redundancy in the Midlandsis now thougt to be inevitable.*

*4. The statements he had made were proved to be were false.*

*5. Mr Smith was understood to be willing to meet the British Prime Minister.*

*6. The Chancelloris believed to be thinking of imposing special taxes to raise extra revenue.*

*7. The electricity supply industryis expected tol be running into surplus capacity by next year.*

*8. Several American motor manufacturersare reported to be planning to set up assembly*

*plants overseas.*

*9. The brewersare expected to raise the price of beer in the near future.*

*10. The drug was claimed to produce/have produced no undesirable side-effects.*

*11. The police is said to have acted with great restraint, despite provocation.*

*12. The Prime Minister was alleged to have misled the House*

*13. The Government is believed to have had second thoughts on this problem.*

*14. The explosion was believed to have been caused by a mine.*

*15. The ship's radio equipment is presumed to have been put out of the action during the fire.*

*16. The information was later admitted to have been obtained from unreliable sources*.

**Causative Passive**

**EXERCISE 1**

*1. Every Friday, Joe has his car washed.*

*2. Tomorrow, (she is going to have her shower repaired.*

*3. Each Saturday, (we have a pizza delivered to our home.*

*4. Last year, Bob had his house cleaned by a charwoman.*

*5. As Phil had a broken arm, (he was having his texts typed by his secretary.*

*6. I ‘m having the goods picked up tomorrow in the afternoon.*

*7. We had our walls redecorated last summer.*

*8. Whenever Clara is staying at this hotel, she has her bags carried into her room.*

*9. We had our last party organized by professionals*.

**EXERCISE 2**

*1.have / cut 2.  having / taken 3.  have / made 4.  have / repaired  
  
5.  have / drycleaned 6.  had / serviced 7.  having / made 8.  having / installed  
  
9.  have / checked out 10. had / searched*

**EXERCISE 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *1* | *We had the roof repaired last year. It cost us a packet. (repair)* |
| *2* | *Anne has her hair done every Friday afternoon. (do)* |
| *3* | *I have the brakes checked three times a year. (check)* |
| *4* | *The government had the whole town evacuated yesterday. (evacuate)* |
| *5* | *I had my hard drive changed for a bigger one last week. (change)* |
| *6* | *When did you last have the air-conditioning serviced? (service)* |
| *7* | *You don't think Liv Tyler's beautiful?! You should have your eyes tested. (test)* |
| *8* | *After the plague of fleas, the boss had the office disinfected. (disinfect)* |
| *9* | *Your cat's coughing. You need to have him treated for parasites. (treat)* |
| *10* | *Daphne have her legs done once a fortnight. (do)* |
| *11* | *I normally have my suit dry-cleaned before a wedding. (clean)* |
| *12* | *The headmaster had all the lockers searched for the missing footballs yesterday. (search)* |
| *13* | *Have you had your house double-glazed? (double-glaze)* |
| *14* | *Have you had that poster I bought you framed yet? (frame)* |
| *15* | *The house is in chaos. We're having a new kitchen put in. (put)* |

**EXERCISE 4**

*1. I had the oil in my car changed.*

*2. I had my hair cut in a completely new style.*

*3. We have had our house repainted.*

*4. I´m going to have my DVD player repaired next week by a friend of mine, who is an electrician.*

*5. I´m having my jacket cleaned at a specialist cleaner´s.*

*6. The council have just had the town hall rebuilt*.

**EXERCISE 5**

1. Tomorrow ***I´m going to the hairdresser´s to get my hair cut****.*

2. Yesterday ***I went to the optician´s to have my eyes tested.***

3. This afternoon ***I´m going to the dentist to have a tooth taken out.***

4. Last week ***I went to the doctor´s to have my blood pressure taken.***

5. Next Saturday ***I´m going to the vet´s to have my dog vaccinated.***

6. The day before yesterday ***I went to the garage to get my car serviced.***

7. Last year ***I saw the architect to have my new house designed.***

8. Next week ***I´m talking my accountant to have my annual accounts done.***

**You can find these exercises and many more at the following links:**

THE PASSIVE (Theory)

<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/activepassive.html>

<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/passive>

<http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/passive.htm>

<http://mapenglisheoi.blogspot.com.es/2011/10/passive-voive-advanced.html>

<http://learnenglishfromhome.blogspot.com.es/2012/02/grammatube-causative-verbs-in-english.html>

<http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/grammar/engineering/passive/3.xml>

Passive EXERCISES:

<http://www.eslflow.com/Passivetenselessons.html>

<http://www.nonstopenglish.com/allexercises/grammar/grammar-passive_voice.asp>

<http://www.englishexercises.org/makeagame/viewgame.asp?id=3339>

<http://www.tolearnenglish.com/english_lessons/passive-voice-advanced>

<http://mbonillo.xavierre.com/exercises/bch2/2bch2009/passrph2bch6.htm>

<http://menuaingles.blogspot.com.es/2011/02/unit-22-level-3-upper-intermediate.html>

<http://busyteacher.org/classroom_activities-grammar/passive_voice-worksheets/>

Causative Passive Theory and Exercises

<http://perso.wanadoo.es/autoEnglish/gr.havdon.i.htm>

<http://www.better-english.com/havedone.htm>

<http://www.englishgrammarsecrets.com/havesomethingdone/menu.php>

<http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/solutions/int_unit_page/unit9/grammar/exercise1>

<http://perso.wanadoo.es/autoenglish/gr.havdon.i.htm>

<http://www.better-english.com/grammar/havedone.htm>

<http://www.englishgrammarsecrets.com/havesomethingdone/menu.php>

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/grammar/caus.htm> (upper intermediate theory and exercises)