



Name: _____

Unit 3

Date: / /20

The Passive

The Forbidden City is **situated** in the centre of Beijing. It **was built** as the Imperial Palace for the emperors of China. It **was named** the Forbidden City because no common or foreign person **was allowed** to go inside without special permission.



We form the passive with the verb to be and the past participle of the main verb.

	Active	Passive
1 Present Simple	He delivers the parcels.	The parcels are delivered .
2 Present Continuous	He is delivering the parcels.	The parcels are being delivered .
3 Past Simple	He delivered the parcels.	The parcels were delivered .
4 Past Continuous	He was delivering the parcels.	The parcels were being delivered .
5 Future Simple	He will deliver the parcels.	The parcels will be delivered .
6 Present Perfect	He has delivered the parcels.	The parcels have been delivered .
7 Past Perfect	He had delivered the parcels.	The parcels had been delivered .
8 Modals + be + p.p.	He should deliver the parcels.	The parcels should be delivered .

Use

We use the passive:

- when the **person who carries out the action is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.**
e.g. a) My flat **was broken into** last week. (We do not know who broke into the flat.)
b) Coffee beans **are grown** in Brazil. (It is not important to know who grows the coffee.)
c) My car **was serviced** yesterday. (It is obvious that a mechanic serviced it.)

- when the **action itself is more important than the person who carries it out**, as in news headlines, newspaper articles, formal notices, instructions, advertisements, processes, etc.
e.g. a) The new hospital **will be opened** by the Queen on May 15th. (formal notice)
b) Then, the milk **is taken** to a factory where it is **pasteurised**. (process)
- when we **refer to an unpleasant event and we do not want to say who or what is to blame.**
e.g. A lot of mistakes **have been made**. (instead of 'You have made a lot of mistakes'.)

Changing from active into passive

To change a sentence from the active into the passive:

- the object of the active sentence becomes the subject in the passive sentence.
- the active verb remains in the same tense, but changes into a passive form.
- the subject of the active sentence becomes the agent, and is either introduced with the preposition *by* or omitted.

	subject	verb	object
active	Tom	invited	me.

	subject	verb	agent
passive	I,	was invited	by Tom.

- Only transitive verbs (verbs followed by an object) can be changed into the passive.

e.g. active: *Grandma knitted my jumper.* (transitive verb)

passive: *My jumper was knitted by Grandma.*

But: *They travelled to Lisbon last summer.* (intransitive verb)

Some transitive verbs such as *have, fit, suit, resemble*, etc. cannot be changed into the passive.

e.g. *I have a shower every morning.* (NOT: ~~A shower is had by me ...~~)

- We use *by* + agent to say who or what carries out the action. We use *with* + instrument/material/ingredient to say what the agent used.

e.g. *The pancakes were made by Claire. They were made with eggs, flour and milk.*

- The agent is often omitted in the passive sentence when the subject of the active sentence is one of the following words: *people, one, someone/somebody, they, he*, etc.

e.g. active: *Somebody has rearranged the furniture.*

passive: *The furniture has been rearranged.*

But: The agent is not omitted when it is a specific or important person or when it is essential to the meaning of the sentence.

e.g. a) *The 'Mona Lisa' was painted by Leonardo da Vinci.*

b) *A new law has been passed by the government.*



Rewrite the sentences in the passive, where possible.

- 1 John opened the door.
...The door was opened by John.....
- 2 They didn't come home late last night.
...It cannot be changed.....
- 3 Their nanny takes them to the park every day.
.....
- 4 I left very early yesterday afternoon.
.....
- 5 Meg asked the policeman for directions.
.....
- 6 Charles is moving house next month.
.....
- 7 The letter arrived two days ago.
.....
- 8 Sam took these photographs.
.....



Fill in by or with.

- 1 The lock was broken ...with... a hammer.
- 2 This book was written my favourite author.
- 3 The cake was decorated icing.
- 4 The tiger was shot a gun.
- 5 Claire was shouted at her teacher.
- 6 He was hit on the head an umbrella.



Rewrite the sentences in the passive.

- 1 Someone is repairing the garden fence.
...The garden fence is being repaired....
.....
- 2 She hit him on the head with a tennis racquet.
.....
- 3 Michael has made the preparations.
.....
Is Tim cleaning the house?
.....
.....

- 4 The boss is going to give us a pay rise.
.....
- 5 They will deliver my new car soon.
.....
- 6 The police are questioning the suspects.
.....
- 7 Paul remembers his teacher asking him to star in the school play.
.....
- 8 A lot of children use computers nowadays.
.....
- 9 They won't completed the work by the end of the month.
.....
- 10 The children will post the letters.
.....
- 11 People make cheese from milk.
.....
- 12 Helen had closed the windows before she left the house.
.....
- 13 Jill hasn't done the housework yet.
.....
- 14 They may not deliver the parcel today.
.....



Put the verbs in brackets into the correct passive tense.

- A: Do you still work at Browns and Co?
B: Yes, I do. I 1) ...have been employed... (employ) by Mr Brown for five years now, you know.
A: Oh. Do you still enjoy it?
B: Oh yes! I 2) (give) a promotion last year and I'm very happy.
A: A promotion? So, what is your job now?
B: I 3) (make) Head of European Sales.
A: So, what do you do?
B: Well, sometimes I 4) (send) to other countries on business.
A: I see. Do they pay you well?
B: Well, I 5) (pay) quite well and I expect I 6) (give) a pay rise soon.
A: Good for you!