

53 It may/could/must have been, etc

A Introduction

Vicky, Emma and Matthew are at a club in town.

Vicky: *Where's Daniel? He **should have been** here half an hour ago.*

Emma: *He **may have got lost**. It isn't easy to find this place.*

Matthew: *He **could have forgotten** all about it, I suppose.*

Emma: *He **can't have forgotten**. We were talking about it this morning.*

Matthew: *Well, something **must have delayed** him.*

We can use a modal verb with the perfect (**have** + a past participle).

We use this structure to talk about possible past events.

B May have, might have and could have

We use these forms to say that possibly something happened in the past. *He*

***may have got lost**. (= Perhaps he has got lost.) *You **might have left** your keys**

*at work. (= Perhaps you left them at work.) *Someone **could have stolen** them.**

(= It is possible that someone stole them.)

We also use **could have** for an opportunity that we didn't take or a possible result that didn't happen.

We could have gone** out somewhere, but we were too tired. *You were very lucky. There **could have been*
a terrible accident.

May not have, might not have and couldn't have

Compare these different uses.

MAY/MIGHT NOT HAVE

Possibly something did not happen.

*Daniel **may not have caught** the bus. I expect he*
missed it.

(Perhaps he didn't catch it.) 7

***might not have locked** the door.*

(Perhaps I didn't lock it.)

COULDN'T HAVE

It is impossible that something
happened. *Daniel **couldn't have caught** the*
bus. It doesn't

run on Sundays.

(It is impossible for him to have caught the
bus.)

Must have and can't have

Must and **can't** are opposites.

MUST HAVE

*My watch says it's only ten past two. It **must***
***have stopped**.*

I realize it is certainly true that my watch has
stopped.

CAN'T HAVE

You've only spent five minutes on that job. You
***can't have done** it properly. I realize it is*

impossible that you did the job properly.

Should have and ought to have

We use these forms when someone didn't do the right thing. *We didn't*

*play very well **We should have played** better. I got lost. ~ Sorry. I*

***ought to have drawn** you a map. It was a lovely old building. They*

***shouldn't have knocked** it down.*

53 Exercises

It may/could/must have been, etc (B-D)

Look at each conversation and choose the best sentence, a) or b).

- ▶ Has the car broken down? ~ Well, we may have run out of petrol.
 - a) I'm sure there's no petrol left, b) I think there's no petrol left.
- 1 You could have had a free holiday. ~ Yes, we could, but the dates weren't convenient.
 - a) We had a free holiday, b) We didn't have a free holiday.
- 2 Did you record the programme? ~ I can't remember. I might not have done.
 - a) I'm not sure if I recorded it. b) I certainly didn't record it.
- 3 Can't you find that newspaper? ~ No, someone must have thrown it away.
 - a) It was necessary to throw it away, b) I realize now that it was thrown away.

Should and ought to (E and Unit 49B)

Complete the replies. Use *should/ought to* or *should have/ought to have*.

- ▶ Rita: Tom's car was stolen. He hadn't locked it.
 - David: I suppose it's his fault then. *He should have locked it.*
- ▶ Tom: I can't sleep sometimes. My neighbours play music all night.
 - Melanie: That's a nuisance. *They shouldn't play music all night.*
- 1 Mark: The picnickers left litter everywhere.
 - Sarah: That's awful
- 2 Emma: Jessica isn't very friendly, is she? She never says hello to people.
 - Matthew: I know.
- 3 Rachel: I don't think Daniel's going to get that job. He was late for the interview.
 - Natasha: That can't have looked very good.
- 4 Daniel: Did you see Vicky crossing the road? She didn't look.
 - Emma: She could have been killed

3 It may/could/must have been, etc (B-E)

Complete the conversation. Use *can't have*, *might have*, *must have* and *shouldn't have*.

- Harriet: There's a parcel outside. The postman (>) *must have left* (leave) it.
Mike: Well, (1) (he/ leave) it outside. He isn't supposed to do that.
Someone (2) (take) it. Why didn't he ring the bell?
Harriet: He always rings. (3) (you / be) out when he came.
Mike: I haven't been out. So (4) (he / ring) the bell.

4 It may/could/must have been, etc (B-E)

Complete the sentences. The second person agrees with the first. Use *might have*, *couldn't have*, etc.

- ▶ Matthew: I'm sure the computer didn't make a mistake. That's impossible.
 - Emma: No, of course *the computer couldn't have made a mistake.*
- 1 Mark: I can't see the letter here now. So clearly someone posted it.
 - Alan: Yes,
- 2 Natasha: It's possible Emma didn't hear the alarm.
 - Rachel: Well, I suppose
- 3 Sarah: Henry drove at 100 miles an hour. Don't you think that's dangerous?
 - Mark: Yes, I do
- 4 Daniel: I just don't believe that Andrew has failed the exam.
 - Vicky: Andrew? Impossible!

Modal verbs (Units 44-53)

Test 10A

Decide which word is correct.

- *Could* I have some more tea, please?
a) Could b) Shall c) Will d) Would
- 1 Everyone's asleep. We..... make a noise.
a) couldn't b) mustn't c) needn't d) wouldn't
- 2 you like to go for a ride with us?
a) Do b) Should c) Will d) Would
- 3 I wonder if this is the right way. Itnotbe.
a) can b) could c) might d) must
- 4 I don't think I want to see this film. ~ Oh, I think you..... enjoy it.
a) can b) shall c) will d) would
- 5 I'm quite happy to walk. You drive me home.
a) don't b) haven't c) mustn't d) needn't
- 6 I show you the way? ~ Oh, thank you.
a) Do b) Shall c) Will d) Would
- 7 It's late. I think we better go.
a) had b) have c) should d) would
- 8 We all tried to push the van, but it..... move.
a) can't b) couldn't c) won't d) wouldn't

Test 10 B

Some of these sentences are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If the sentence is correct, put a tick (/). If it is incorrect, cross the unnecessary word out of the sentence and write it in the space.

- ? I won't be able to come to the meeting. /
- ? We ~~didn't~~ needn't have watered the garden because it's raining, *didn't*
- 1 Would you like to be in the team?
- 2 Did people have to bring their own sleeping-bags?
- 3 I could to ski when I was quite young.
- 4 Would you mind for checking these figures?
- 5 We may be go swimming tomorrow.
- 6 I knew that I would be sorry later.
- 7 If you had fallen, you could have been hurt yourself.
- 8 We're not supposed to use this entrance.
- 9 You don't have to do all the work yourself.
- 10 Anna wasn't be allowed to take photos.

Test 10C

Write a second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word in brackets.

- Perhaps Susan knows the address, (may)
Susan may know the address.
- 1 We should be careful, (ought)
- 2 I managed to finish all my work, (able)

- 3 I realize that it was a terrible experience for you. (must)
- 4 It's against the rules for players to have a drink, (allowed)
- 5 The best thing for you to do is sit down, (better)
- 6 The report must be on my desk tomorrow morning, (has)
- 7 It is possible that Joanne did not receive my message, (might)
- 8 It's impossible for Martin to be jogging in this weather, (can't)
- 9 Tessa wants a cup of coffee, (like)
- 10 It was not necessary for Nancy to clean the flat, (didn't)

Test 10D

Say what the speaker is doing. After each sentence write one of the phrases from the box.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>asking for advice</i> | <i>giving an order</i> | <i>making a suggestion</i> | <i>refusing permission</i> |
| <i>asking permission</i> | <i>inviting</i> | <u><i>offering food</i></u> | |
| <i>expressing a wish</i> | <i>making a request</i> | <i>offering to help</i> | |

- Will you have a piece of cake? *offering food*
- 1 May I sit down?
 - 2 You must report to me every day.
 - 3 What jobs should I apply for?
 - 4 Would you like to spend the day with us?
 - 5 Shall I do the washing-up?
 - 6 Shall we sit outside?
 - 7 I'm sorry. You can't park here.
 - 8 Could you fill in this form, please?
 - 9 We really must have a nice big party.

Test 10 E

Here is some information for visitors to New York City.
Write the missing words. Use one word only in each space.

Before you travel to the US, you (►) *must* find out what documents you need. British people do not (1)..... to get a visa, but there are different rules for different nationalities. For example, you (2).....need to show that you have enough money with you. But there's one rule you can be sure about: everyone (3)..... to show their passport. The roads in New York are very busy, but don't worry - you (4)..... get around cheaply and easily by subway. Remember that you are not (5)..... to smoke on public transport or in shops. And don't forget either that you are (6) to tip taxi drivers and waiters. New York is not the most dangerous city in the US, but you really (7) walk along empty streets at night. And it is safer if you are (8) to travel around in a group.

54 Passive verb forms

A Introduction

A passive verb is a form of **be** + a passive participle, e.g. **is baked, was worn**. Some participles are irregular (see page 383).



B Summary of verb tenses

| | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Present simple: | <i>We bake the bread here. We</i> | <i>The bread is baked here. The</i> |
| Present continuous: | <i>are baking the bread. We</i> | <i>bread is being baked. The</i> |
| Present perfect: | <i>have baked the bread. We</i> | <i>bread has been baked. The</i> |
| Past simple: | <i>baked the bread yesterday. We</i> | <i>bread was baked yesterday. The</i> |
| continuous: Past | <i>were baking the bread. We</i> | <i>bread was being baked. The</i> |
| perfect: | <i>had baked the bread.</i> | <i>bread had been baked.</i> |

We form negatives and questions in the same way as in active sentences. *The bread **isn't baked** in a factory. The jacket **hasn't been worn** for years. Where **is** the bread **baked**? **Has** the jacket ever **been worn** by anyone else?*

The future and modal verbs in the passive

We use **be** + a passive participle after **will, be going to, can, must, have to, should**, etc. *The gates **will be dosed** this evening. This rubbish **should be thrown** away. The machine **has to be repaired**. The news **might be announced** soon. Seats **may not be reserved**. How **can** the problem **be solved**?*

| | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Future: | <i>We will bake the bread next. We are going to bake the bread.</i> | <i>The bread will be baked next. The bread is going to be baked.</i> |
| Modal verb: | <i>We should bake the bread soon. We ought to bake the bread.</i> | <i>The bread should be baked soon. The bread ought to be baked.</i> |

The passive with get

We sometimes use **get** in the passive instead of **be**.

*Lots of postmen **get bitten** by dogs. I'm always **getting chosen** for the worst jobs. Last week Laura **got moved** to another department.* **Get** is informal. We often use it for something happening by accident or unexpectedly.

In negatives and questions in the present simple and past simple, we use a form of **do**. *The windows **don't get cleaned** very often. How **did** the painting **get damaged**?*

We also use **get** in these expressions: **get dressed/changed, get washed** (= wash oneself), **get engaged/married/divorced, get started** (= start), **get lost** (= lose one's way). *Emma and Matthew might **get married**. Without a map we soon **got lost**.*

54 Exercises

i The present continuous passive (B)

Look at the pictures and say what is happening. Use these subjects: *the car, dinner, a flag, some houses, the seals*. Use these verbs: *build, feed, raise, repair, serve*.



► *The car is being repaired.*

2 Passive verb tenses (B)

Complete the information about Barford Hall. Put in the correct form of these verbs.

- *build* (past simple) 2 *use* (past continuous) 4 *not look* (past perfect) 6 *use* (present simple)
 1 *own* (present simple) 3 *buy* (past simple) 5 *do* (present perfect)

The building at the end of the High Street is Barford Hall, which (►) *was built* in 1827. Today the Hall (1)..... by Bardale Council. It (2)as a warehouse when it (3) by the Council in 1952, and it (4)after very well. Since then a lot of work (5)on it, and these days the Hall (6).....as an arts centre.

3 The future and modal verbs in the passive (C)

A press conference is being held. Put in the correct form of the verbs.

- Reporter: Can this new drug prolong human life?
 Professor: Yes, we believe that human life *can be prolonged* by the drug.
 1 Reporter: Are you going to do any more tests on the drug?
 Professor: Yes, further tests..... soon.
 2 Reporter: What..... the drug ?
 Professor: It will be called Bio-Meg.
 3 Reporter: Can people buy the drug now?
 Professor: No, it by the public yet.
 4 Reporter: Do you think the company should sell this drug?
 Professor: Yes, I think Bio-Meg to anyone who wants it.

4 The passive with get (D)

Put in *get* or *got* and the passive participle of these verbs: *break, change, divorce, hurt, lose*

- If we're going out to the theatre, I'd better *get changed*.
 1 Danielwhen he tried to break up a fight.
 2 I know the way. We won't
 3 You'd better wrap up the glasses, so they don't.....
 4 They were only married a year before they

55 Active and passive (1)

A What is the sentence about?

Compare these two entries in an encyclopedia.

Alexander Graham Bell
A British inventor who went to live in Canada and then the USA. Bell invented the telephone.

Telephone
An apparatus with which people can talk to each other over long distances. The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

Look at these two sentences.

ACTIVE

***Bell** invented the telephone.*

PASSIVE

*The telephone was invented by **Bell**.*

The two sentences have the same meaning, but they are about different things. One sentence is about Bell, and the other is about the telephone. Each sentence begins with the subject. The subject is the starting-point of the sentence, the thing we are talking about. The new information about the subject comes at the end of the sentence.

We say *Bell invented the telephone* because we are talking about **Bell**, and the new information is that he invented **the telephone**.

We say *The telephone was invented by Bell* because we are talking about **the telephone**, and the new information is that it was invented by **Bell**.

When the subject is the person or thing doing the action (the agent), then we use an active verb.

When the subject is not the agent (is not doing the action), then we use a passive verb.

ACTIVE

Bell invented the telephone.

Subject and agent

The subject (**Bell**) is the agent.

PASSIVE

The telephone was invented by *Bell*.

Subject

Agent

The subject (**the telephone**) is not the agent. It is the thing that the action is directed at.

B The passive and **by the police, in 1876**, etc

In a passive sentence, when we want to say who or what did the action, we use **by**.

*On our way home we were stopped **by the police**. The new hospital will be opened **by the Queen**.*

*The paper was all blown away **by the wind**.*

We can give other details about the action. For example, we can use a phrase saying when or where something happens.

*The telephone was invented **in 1876**. The visitors will be driven **to the airport**.*

*The concerts are usually held **at the university**.*

Sometimes there is no phrase after the verb.

*A new swimming-pool **is being built**. All the documents **have been destroyed**.*

For more details see Unit 56.

55 Exercises

1 Active or passive verb? (A)

Choose the correct verb forms in this news report about a storm.

Millions of pounds' worth of damage (► has caused/has been caused) by a storm which (1) swept/was swept across the north of England last night. The River Ribble (2) burst/was burst its banks after heavy rain. Many people (3) rescued/were rescued from the floods by fire-fighters, who (4) received/were received hundreds of calls for help. Wind speeds (5) reached/were reached ninety miles an hour in some places. Roads (6) blocked/were blocked by fallen trees, and electricity lines (7) brought/were brought down, leaving thousands of homes without electricity. 'Everything possible (8) is doing/is being done to get things back to normal,' a spokesman (9) said/was said.

2 By the police, etc (B)

In each of these sentences underline who or what is doing the action (the agent).

- The traffic was all heading out of town.
- 1 The photo was taken by my brother.
 - 2 The water was pouring out of the hole.
 - 3 A policeman has been murdered by terrorists.
 - 4 We were woken by the alarm.
 - 5 The guide led a group of tourists around the castle.
 - 6 The dog has bitten several people.

3 Active and passive (A-B)

You are telling a friend some news. Use the notes and complete the second sentence. Sometimes you need to use the active and sometimes the passive.

- 2 (Past simple: Claire / go / to Florida / last month)
You remember Claire? She *went to Florida last month*.
- 2 (Present perfect: send / our luggage / to Australia)
Bad news about our luggage. It's *been sent to Australia*.
- 1 (Past simple: Claude Jennings / win / the quiz competition)
Did you hear about the quiz competition? It
- 2 (Past simple: Mrs Miles / do / a parachute jump / last week)
You know Mrs Miles? She
- 3 (Present perfect: a bull / attack / David)
Have you heard about David? He's
- 4 (Present continuous: build / the house)
Trevor and Laura have bought a house. It's still
- 5 (Present simple: Andrew / like / Jessica)
Did I tell you about Andrew? He
- 6 (Present perfect: throw away / your stamp collection)
Bad news about your stamp collection. It's
- 7 (Present perfect: Martians / kidnap / my neighbours)
Did I mention my neighbours? They've.....
- 8 (Past simple: five people / see / the ghost)
Did you hear about the ghost? It

56 Active and passive (2)

A The passive and the agent

In a passive sentence, we sometimes mention the agent (the person or thing doing the action).

We use *by* with the agent.

*The cheque must be signed **by the manager**.*

*The medals were presented **by Nelson Mandela**.*

But we mention the agent only if it is important for the meaning of the sentence.

Sometimes we do not mention it.

1 We do not mention the agent if it does not add any new information.

All our money and passports were stolen. A man was arrested last night. We do not need to say that the money was stolen 'by a thief' or that the man was arrested 'by the police'.

2 We do not mention the agent if it is not important.

The streets are cleaned every day. Oil has been discovered at the North Pole. Who discovered the oil is less important than the fact that it is there.

3 It is sometimes difficult to say who the agent is.

This kind of jacket is considered very fashionable these days.

A number of attempts have been made to find the Loch Ness monster.

B Empty subjects (**they, people, etc**)

Compare these two sentences.

ACTIVE

***They** clean the streets every day.*

PASSIVE

The streets are cleaned every day.

The new and important information is how often the streets are cleaned. We are not interested in saying who cleans them. In the active sentence we can use the 'empty subject' **they**. We sometimes use a sentence with an empty subject instead of the passive, especially in conversation.

We can also use the empty subjects **people, you, one** and **someone**.

ACTIVE

***People** use this footpath all the time.*

***You/One** should check the details.*

***Someone** took my purse.*

PASSIVE

This footpath is used all the time.

The details should be checked.

My purse was taken.

When do we use the passive?

We use the passive in both speech and writing, but it is more common in writing.

We see it especially in textbooks and reports. We use it to describe activities in industry, science and technology, and also for official rules.

*Bananas **are exported** to Europe. The liquid **is heated** to boiling point.*

*Payment **can be made** at any post office. Cars left here **will be towed** away.* In these situations, it is often not important to say who is doing the action, or it is difficult to say.

The passive is also often used in news reports.

*A number of political prisoners **have been released**.*

*Talks **will be held** in London next week.*

56 Exercises

i The passive and the agent (A)

Laura is writing to a friend. This is part of her letter.

Someone broke into our house at the weekend. The burglar took some jewellery. But luckily he didn't do any damage. A very nice young police officer interviewed me. Detectives found some fingerprints, and the police computer identified the burglar. Police have arrested a man and are questioning him. But they haven't found the jewellery.

Now complete the passive sentences in this conversation. Use a phrase with *by* only if it adds information.

Laura: Our house (►) *was broken into at the weekend*

Melanie: Oh no!

Laura: Some jewellery (1).....

But luckily no damage (2).....

Melanie: Did the police come and see you?

Laura: Yes, they did. I (3)

Melanie: I don't suppose they know who did it.

Laura: Well, amazingly they do. Some (4),

and the (5)

A man (6)..... and (7)

Melanie: Wonderful.

Laura: There's only one problem. The (8)

2 Active or passive sentence? (A)

Write a paragraph from the notes about the first motor car. Some sentences are active and some are passive. Use a phrase with *by* only if it adds information.

► a Belgian called Etienne Lenoir / make / the first motor car

The first motor car was made by a Belgian called Etienne Lenoir.

1. but / Lenoir / not produce / many cars / for sale

But Lenoir

2. a German called Karl Benz / start / commercial production

Commercial

3. people / now / see / Benz / as the father / of the motor car

Benz

Empty subjects (B)

Reply to what people say. Use the subject in brackets.

► Daniel: The bus fares have been increased, (they)

Vicky: What? You mean *they've increased the bus fares* again!

1. Melanie: Bicycles should be used for short journeys, (people)

David: Yes, I agree.

2. Emma: A new source of energy has been discovered, (someone)

Daniel: What? Did you say that

3. Rachel: This building is going to be knocked down, (they)

Vicky: Well, no one told me that

4. David: Eggs shouldn't be kept in a freezer, (you)

Tom: Really? I didn't know

5. Vicky: Why isn't litter put in the bin? (people)

Emma: Exactly. Why don't

57 Special passive structures

A I was given ...

Look at these sentences.

Henry gave some flowers to Claire. Henry gave Claire some flowers. An active sentence with a verb like **give** can have two different structures (see Unit 3).

If we use a passive sentence, either **some flowers** or **Claire** can be the subject.

Some flowers were given to Claire.
This is about the flowers, and it tells us who received them.

Claire was given some flowers.
This is about Claire, and it tells us what she received.

It is quite normal in English for a person to be the subject in a passive sentence like the one about Claire.

Mike was sent tickets for the concert. My wife is paid more than 1 am. Andrew has been awarded a prize for his essay.

We can use the following verbs in this structure: **allow, award, fed, give, grant, hand, leave** (in a will), **lend offer, owe, pay, promise, sell, send, show, teach**

B It is said that..

It is said that Henry is in love with Claire.
(= People say that Henry is **in** love with Claire.)

We can use the structure **it + passive verb + clause** with verbs of reporting. We use this structure when we cannot say or do not need to say who the speaker is, for example in news reports.

It is thought that the company is planning a new advertising campaign. It was reported that the President had suffered a heart attack. It has been agreed that changes to the scheme are necessary.

Here are some verbs we can use in this structure: **agree, allege, announce, assure, believe, consider, decide expect, explain, hope, know, report, say, suggest, suppose, think, understand**

He is said to ...

We can also use **subject + passive verb + to-infinitive**.

Henry is said to be in love with Claire.

This structure is also used **in** news reports.

United were expected to win. (= People expected that they would win.)

The company is thought to be planning a new advertising campaign.

(= Someone thinks that it is planning a new advertising campaign.)

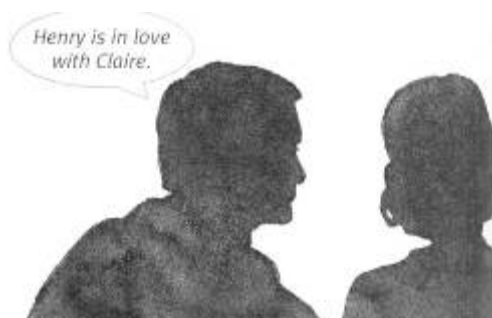
The President was reported to have suffered a heart attack.

(= Someone reported that he had suffered a heart attack.)

We can use the following verbs in this structure: **believe, expect, find, know, report, say, think, understand**

We often use **be supposed to** for things that people say.

I might watch this programme. It's supposed to be very funny.



57 Exercises

1 I was given ... (A)

Zedco managers are writing a report saying how well the company looks after its employees.

Write sentences from the notes. Put the important underlined information at the end of the sentence.

? useful work skills / they are taught to our staff

Our staff are taught useful work skills.

? people with initiative / they are given opportunities

Opportunities are given to people with initiative.

1 special training / it is given to new employees

2 staff who perform well / they are given extra payments

3 company shares / they are offered to most employees

4 six weeks' holiday / this is allowed to all Zedco staff

5 women who leave to have children / they are paid a full salary

2 It is said that... (B)

Report these rumours. Instead of the active (e.g. *People say ...*) use the passive (e.g. *It is said that ...*).

► People say this.

_____ *The quiz champion
Claude Jennings has lost
his memory.*

*It is said that the quiz champion Claude Jennings has
lost his memory.*

Everyone expects this.

*The soap opera
'Round the Corner' will
end next year.*

It is

2 Journalists suppose so.

*The footballer Wayne
Johnson is earning £10
million a year.*

3 Lots of people believe this.

*The Prime Minister
and his wife have
separated.*

3 He is said to... (C)

Now report the rumours in Exercise 2 like this.

► *The quiz champion Claude Jennings is said to have lost his memory.*

1 The soap opera 'Round the Corner'