

Cases when the passive voice is used

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- when **the agent** (the person who does the action) is **unknown, unimportant or obvious** from the context. *The door **had been locked**. (we don't know who locked it – unknown agent) Repairs **are being made** to the car. (by the mechanic – obvious agent)*
- when we are interested more in the action than the person who carries it out, such as in **news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements, etc.** *The whole area **was evacuated**. (news report) Breakfast **is served** from 6.00 to 10.30. (formal notice)*
- to make **statements** more **formal or polite**. *"My new dress **has been ruined**". (more polite than saying "You ruined my dress").*
- to put **emphasis** on the agent. *The Pyramids were built **by the ancient Egyptians**.*

6 Rewrite the newspaper headlines as complete sentences.

1 **CHILD RESCUED
FROM FIRE YESTERDAY**

4 **NEW
HARRY POTTER** *FILM*
SCREENED NEXT MONTH

2 **BY**
S

5 **MONEY BEING RAISED
FOR HOMELESS**

3 **MISSING PAINTING
NOT YET RECOVERED**

6

1
2
3
4
5
6

List the verbs that **can't be**
changed into the passive

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

active: *Mary feeds the dogs.* (transitive verb)

passive: *The dogs are fed by Mary.*

but: *They sleep early every night.* (The verb sleep in this sentence is intransitive; not followed by an object. The sentence cannot be changed into the passive.)

Some transitive verbs, such as *have, fit, suit, resemble, etc.* cannot be changed into the passive. *She resembles her father in many ways.*

**belong, have (own), lack, resemble, suit, occur, rise, happen, arise, fall, exist, consist (of), depend (on), result (from).*

The following sentences cannot be made passive:

Joanne has two brothers.

Does this bag belong to you?

Unfortunately, Friday doesn't suit me.

Modal verbs in the passive voice

*Active: You **can make** pancakes on a stove.*

Passive: Pancakes can...

Modal Verbs in the Passive Voice

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
can	keep	be kept
should	be keeping	
ought to	have kept	have been kept
may	have been kept	
might		
must		
have to		

He must post this letter.	→	<i>This letter must be posted.</i>
They have to clean their house.	→	<i>Their house has to be cleaned.</i>
You should have told me about it.	→	<i>I should have been told about it.</i>

10

Study the example and rewrite the sentences.

You shouldn't invite Peter to your party.

*Peter **shouldn't be invited** to your party.*

- 1 Pupils mustn't chew gum in the classroom.

Gum

- 2 He must deliver this parcel right away.

This

- 4 We must wear formal clothes to the reception.

Formal clothes

- 5 She has to make all the preparations for the party.

All the preparations

- 6 We don't have to clean the bedroom now.

The bedroom

- 7 We should take the child to his parents' house.

The child

Active: Нужно делать домашнее задание!

Home task should

Vs.

Active: Нужно было (с)делать домашнее задание (когда ты был студентом)

Home task should ...

S + modal verb + have + been + past participle

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*Peter **shouldn't be invited** to your party.*

1 Pupils mustn't chew gum in the classroom.

Gum

2 He must deliver this parcel right away.

This

3 He can't have broken the vase.

The

4 We must wear formal clothes to the reception.

Formal clothes

5 She has to make all the preparations for the party.

All the preparations

6 We don't have to clean the bedroom now.

The bedroom

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S + modal verb + have + been + past participle

1. You **may** have operated the computer.
2. He **might** have watched movie.
3. He **must** have attended the workshop.
4. You **should** have done something about global warming.

15 Complete the sentences using the passive and the modals below.

must

shouldn't

might

can't

- 1 A: Has the rubbish been collected yet?
B: Well, it's not here now so it *must have been collected*.
- 2 A: Did anyone tell David about the meeting?
B: He's written it in his diary so he
- 3 A: Has anyone repaired the telephone?
B: I've just used it so it
- 4 A: Was Sue injured in the car accident?
B: She I heard there were a few casualties.
- 5 A: Did anyone move the accident victim?
B: Yes, but he It was a mistake to touch him.
- 6 A: Ted said someone stole his car. Is that true?
B: No. It I've just seen him driving it.

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

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.'

Personal & Impersonal Construction

Hope, consider, say, think, believe, report, expect, claim, know, etc can be used in the following passive structures:

Form	Examples
Personal Structure subject + passive verb + full infinitive	<i>He is said to be an excellent pianist.</i> <i>She is thought to be living in America.</i>
Impersonal Structure It + passive verb + that + clause	<i>It is said that he is an excellent pianist.</i> <i>It has been reported that she is living in America.</i>



Study the examples and rewrite the sentences.

They believe that smoking causes cancer.

a *It is believed that smoking causes cancer.*

b *Smoking is believed to cause cancer.*

1 They say that Emma plays the violin very well.

a It

b Emma

2 They expect that Jude Law will win the Oscar for Best Actor.

a It

b Jude Law

3 People know that he trains very hard.

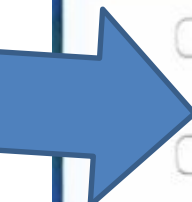
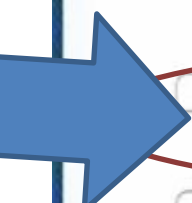
a It

b He

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

alleged believed considered expected known reported thought understood

Compare the two structures:

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

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

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| ☐ It is reported that two people were injured in the explosion. | or | Two people are reported to have been injured in the explosion. |
|---|----|---|

1. They say that Emma plays the violin very well.

It...

Emma...

2. They expect that he will win the Oskar

It...

He...

3. People know that he trains very hard.

It...

He...



Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 They say she was responsible for the politician's resignation.
She *is said to have been responsible for the politician's resignation.*
- 2 People think that pirates hid a lot of treasure in the Caribbean.
Pirates
- 3 Experts think that the Japanese are interested in buying the company.
The Japanese
- 5 People say that the miners are ready to accept the new pay offer.
The miners
- 6 Historians know that they stole art treasures during the war.
They

- **They say** he is a very funny fellow

He is said

It is said that

- **Everyone says** a tornado will hit tomorrow.

A tornado is said

It is said that

- **They think a boy** is wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt.

The boy is thought

It is thought that

Пожар **начался** вчера вечером

...

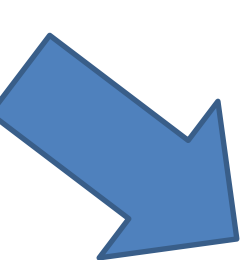
Полагают, что пожар начался вчера
вечером

...

It is believed that the fire ... last night.

*Если речь идет об отношении к
действию, совершившемуся ранее,
употребляется конструкция **to have + past
participle**.*

The fire is believed to **have started** last night.



☐ A friend of mine has been arrested.

It is alleged that he hit a policeman.

or He **is alleged to have hit** a policeman.

☐ The two houses belong to the same family.

It is said that there is a secret tunnel
between them.

or There **is said to be** a secret tunnel
between them.

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☐ **It is reported that** two people were
injured in the explosion.

or Two people **are reported to have
been injured** in the explosion.

- An old lady in my town died last week, and people **say** that she gave a lot of money to charity

It is said that she ... a lot of money to charity.

She is said to ...a lot of money to charity.

- According to news reports, the robber stole three million euros.

It is believed that the robber ...

He is believed to

10

Complete the sentences, as in the example.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 It is expected that she will pass the test easily.
She <i>is expected to pass the test easily</i>.</p> <p>2 It is said that the children were the cause of the damage.
The children</p> <p>3 He is considered to be the best football player in the country.
It</p> <p>4 They believe that he attended the wedding.
He</p> | <p>5 The news presenter reported that the criminal has escaped.
The criminal</p> <p>6 People think that he stole the paintings.
He</p> <p>7 He is said to have lived in France last year.
It</p> <p>8 The company is thought to be losing a lot of money.
It</p> |
|---|--|

Home task (6-8)

Кем была написана книга?

Кем подписан документ?

- In passive questions with *who/whom/which* we do not omit **by**.

*Who gave you this book? → Who were you given this book **by**?*

*Who signed the letter? → Who was this letter signed **by**?*