

# English Grammar

## The Passive Voice

**O.Tasenyuk, ELT**  
**2012/2013**

# Form

**verb “to be” + past participle (= V<sub>3</sub>)**

**NB: we don't change the past participle;  
we change the verb “to be” in the  
tense we need (Present, Past, Future).**

# **We Use The Passive Without Mentioning the Doer/Agent:**

- **We don't know the doer of the action:**  
*The letter was written.*
- **The action is MORE important than the doer:**  
*My car has been stolen.*
- **The doer is obvious:**  
*The criminal will be arrested.*

# We Use The Passive:

- We don't want to take responsibility for the action, or the event is unpleasant:  
*Hundreds of people were killed.*
- In newspapers, in news headlines, in formal notices:  
*New bill has been put forward.*

# **We Use The Passive When With the Doer/Agent:**

- **We want to emphasize the doer:**

*The hospital was visited by the President.*

- **We want to make statements more polite/formal:**

*My new hat was ruined. (He has ruined my new hat.)*

# Prepositions

- When we mention the doer, we use **BY** :  
*The elections were won **BY** V. Putin.*
- When we want to mention what the agent used in order to carry out an action, we use **WITH** :  
*That picture was drawn **WITH** a blue crayon.*

# Reporting What People Say or Think in General

**We use: It is said/ believed/ claimed/ thought that ... :**

***It is claimed that economy will be/get stronger over the next few years.***

# The Passive Is Used in Tenses

- **Present simple:**

*More cars are sold now.*

- **Present continuous:**

*More cars are being sold next month.*

- **Past simple:**

*More cars were sold in 2005 than in 2008.*

- **Past continuous:**

*More cars were being sold this time last year.*



- **Future simple:**

*More cars will be sold next year, I hope.*

- **Present perfect:**

*More cars have already been sold.*

- **Past perfect:**

- *More cars had been sold before he managed to sell his one.*

- **Going to:**

*More cars are going to be sold by this salon.*

- **Modal verbs – present:**

*More cars can be sold by this salon.*

- **Modal verbs – past:**

*More cars may have been sold under some other conditions.*

# **The Passive Is Not Used in:**

- **Future continuous**
- **Future perfect continuous**
- **Present perfect continuous**
- **Past perfect continuous**

**The End**

**Thank You**