

Passive (2) (be/been/being done)

Study the following active and passive forms:

A

Infinitive
active: (to) do/clean/see etc. Somebody will clean the room later.
passive: (to) be done/cleaned/seen etc. The room **will be cleaned** later.

- The situation is serious. Something must **be done** before it's too late.
- A mystery is something that can't **be explained**.
- The music was very loud and could **be heard** from a long way away.
- A new supermarket is going **to be built** next year.
- Please go away. I want **to be left** alone.

B

Perfect infinitive
active: **have done/cleaned/seen** etc. Somebody **should have cleaned** the room.
passive: **have been done/cleaned/seen** etc. The room **should have been cleaned**.

- I haven't received the letter yet. It might **have been sent** to the wrong address.
- If you hadn't left the car unlocked, it wouldn't **have been stolen**.
- There were some problems at first but they seem **to have been solved**.

C

Present perfect
active: **have/has (done)** The room looks nice. Somebody **has cleaned** it.
passive: **have/has been (done)** The room looks nice. It **has been cleaned**.

- Have you heard the news? The President **has been shot**!
- **Have you ever been bitten** by a dog?
- 'Are you going to the party?' 'No, I **haven't been invited**.'

Past perfect
active: **had (done)** The room looked nice. Somebody **had cleaned** it.
passive: **had been (done)** The room looked nice. It **had been cleaned**.

- The vegetables didn't taste very good. They **had been cooked** for too long.
- The car was three years old but **hadn't been used** very much.

D

Present continuous
active: **am/is/are (do)ing** Somebody **is cleaning** the room at the moment.
passive: **am/is/are being (done)** The room **is being cleaned** at the moment.

- There's somebody walking behind us. I think we **are being followed**.
- (in a shop) 'Can I help you, madam?' 'No, thank you. I'm **being served**.'

Past continuous
active: **was/were (do)ing** Somebody **was cleaning** the room when I arrived.
passive: **was/were being (done)** The room **was being cleaned** when I arrived.

- There was somebody walking behind us. We **were being followed**.

EXERCISES

42.1 What do these words mean? Use it can... or it can't... Use a dictionary if necessary.

- If something is
- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 washable, <u>it can be washed...</u> | 4 unusable, |
| 2 unbreakable, it | 5 invisible, |
| 3 edible, it | 6 portable, |

42.2 Complete these sentences with one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

carry cause ~~do~~ make repair ~~send~~ spend wake up

Sometimes you need have ('might have', 'could have' etc.).

- 1 The situation is serious. Something must be done before it's too late.
- 2 I haven't received the letter. It might have been sent to the wrong address.
- 3 A decision will not until the next meeting.
- 4 I told the hotel receptionist that I wanted to at 6.30 the next morning.
- 5 Do you think that less money should on armaments?
- 6 This road is in very bad condition. It should a long time ago.
- 7 The injured man couldn't walk and had to
- 8 It's not certain how the fire started but it might by an electrical fault.

42.3 Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using 'somebody' or 'they', write a passive sentence.

- 1 Somebody has cleaned the room. The room has been cleaned.
- 2 They have postponed the concert. The
- 3 Somebody is using the computer at the moment. The computer
- 4 I didn't realise that somebody was recording our conversation. I didn't realise that
- 5 When we got to the stadium we found that they had cancelled the game. When we got to the stadium, we found that
- 6 They are building a new ring road round the city.
- 7 They have built a new hospital near the airport.

42.4 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Sometimes the verb is active, sometimes passive. (This exercise also includes the past simple - see Unit 41C.)

- 1 There's somebody behind us. (I think / we / follow) I think we're being followed.
- 2 This room looks different. (you / paint?) Have you painted it?
- 3 My car has disappeared. (it / steal!) It
- 4 My umbrella has disappeared. (somebody / take) Somebody
- 5 Tom gets a higher salary now. (he / promote)
- 6 Ann can't use her office at the moment. (it / redecorate)
- 7 The photocopier broke down yesterday, but now it's OK. (it / work / again; it / repair)
- 8 The police have found the people they were looking for. (two people / arrest / last night)
- 9 A tree was lying across the road. (it / blow down / in the storm)
- 10 The man next door disappeared six months ago. (nobody / see / since then)
- 11 I was mugged on my way home a few nights ago. (you / ever / mug?)