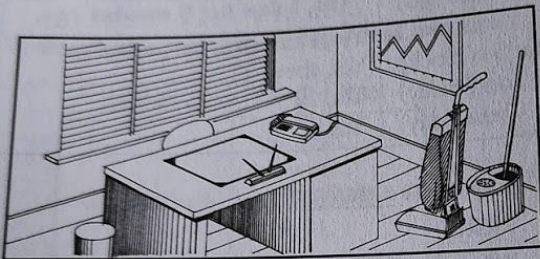


# The passive voice

is done was done (passive 1)

A



The office **is cleaned** every day.

The office **was cleaned** yesterday.

Compare active and passive:

Somebody **cleans** the office every day. (active)

The office **is cleaned** every day. (passive)

Somebody **cleaned** the office yesterday. (active)

The office **was cleaned** yesterday. (passive)

B

The passive is:

present simple

am/is/are

(not)

+

past participle

cleaned

done

invented

built

injured

taken etc.

past simple

was/were

**B** The passive is:

present simple  
past simple

am/is/are (not)  
was/were

+

past participle  
cleaned done  
invented built  
injured taken etc.

The past participle of regular verbs is **-ed** (cleaned/damaged etc.).  
For a list of *irregular* past participles (**done/built/taken** etc.), see Appendix 2-3.

- Butter **is made** from milk.
- Oranges **are imported** into Britain.
- How often **are** these rooms **cleaned**?
- I **am** never **invited** to parties.
- This house **was built** 100 years ago.
- These houses **were built** 100 years ago.
- When **was** the telephone **invented**?
- We **weren't invited** to the party last week.
- **'Was** anybody **injured** in the accident?' 'Yes, two people **were taken** to

**C** was/were born

- I **was born** in London in 1962. (*not* 'I am born')
- Where **were** you **born**?

**D** Passive + **by** ...

- We were woken up **by a loud noise**. (= The noise woke us up.)
- The telephone was invented **by Alexander Bell** in 1876.
- My brother was bitten **by a dog** last week.

## EXERCISES

21.1

Write sentences from the words in brackets (...). Sentences 1-7 are present.

- 1 (the office / clean / every day) The office is cleaned every day.
- 2 (these rooms / clean / every day?) Are these rooms cleaned every day?
- 3 (glass / make / from sand) Glass .....
- 4 (stamps / sell / in a post office) .....
- 5 (this room / not / use / very often) .....
- 6 (we / allow / to park here?) .....
- 7 (how / this word / pronounce?) .....

Sentences 8-15 are past.

- 8 (the office / clean / yesterday) The office was cleaned yesterday.
- 9 (the house / paint / last month) The house .....
- 10 (three people / injure / in the accident) .....
- 11 (my bicycle / steal / a few days ago) .....
- 12 (when / this bridge / build?) .....
- 13 (you / invite / to the party last week?) .....
- 14 (how / these windows / break?) .....
- 15 (I / not / wake up / by the noise) .....

21.2

Correct these sentences.

- 1 This house built 100 years ago. This house was built ...
- 2 Football plays in most countries of the world. ....
- 3 Why did the letter send to the wrong address? ....

- 12 (when / this bridge / build?) .....
- 13 (you / invite / to the party last week?) .....
- 14 (how / these windows / break?) .....
- 15 (I / not / wake up / by the noise) .....

**2** Correct these sentences.

- 1 This house built 100 years ago. This house was built ...
- 2 Football plays in most countries of the world. ....
- 3 Why did the letter send to the wrong address? .....
- 4 A garage is a place where cars repair. ....
- 5 Where are you born? .....
- 6 How many languages are speaking in Switzerland? .....
- 7 Somebody broke into our house but nothing stolen. ....
- 8 When was invented the bicycle? .....

**3** Complete the sentences. Use the passive (present or past) of these verbs:

**clean damage find give invite make make show steal take**

- 1 The room is cleaned every day.
- 2 I saw an accident yesterday. Two people were taken to hospital.
- 3 Paper ..... from wood.
- 4 There was a fire at the hotel last week. Two of the rooms .....
- 5 'Where did you get this picture?' 'It ..... to me by a friend of mine.'
- 6 Many American programmes ..... on British television.
- 7 'Did Jim and Sue go to the wedding?' 'No. They ..... but they didn't go.'
- 8 'How old is this film?' 'It ..... in 1965.'
- 9 My car ..... last week but the next day it ..... by the police.

- 3 Why did the letter sent to the wrong address? .....
- 4 A garage is a place where cars repair. ....
- 5 Where are you born? .....
- 6 How many languages are speaking in Switzerland? .....
- 7 Somebody broke into our house but nothing stolen. ....
- 8 When was invented the bicycle? .....

### 21.3

Complete the sentences. Use the passive (present or past) of these verbs:

~~clean~~ damage find give invite make make show steal take

- 1 The room is cleaned every day.
- 2 I saw an accident yesterday. Two people were taken to hospital.
- 3 Paper ..... from wood.
- 4 There was a fire at the hotel last week. Two of the rooms .....
- 5 'Where did you get this picture?' 'It ..... to me by a friend of mine.'
- 6 Many American programmes ..... on British television.
- 7 'Did Jim and Sue go to the wedding?' 'No. They ..... but they didn't go.'
- 8 'How old is this film?' 'It ..... in 1965.'
- 9 My car ..... last week but the next day it ..... by the police.

### 21.4

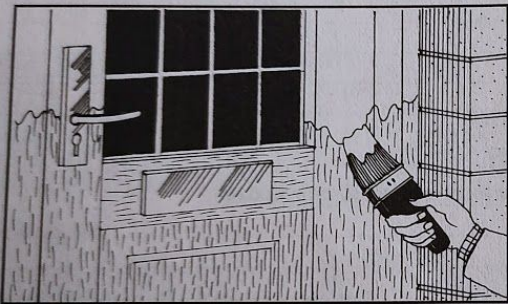
Where were they born?

- 1 (Ian / Edinburgh) Ian was born in Edinburgh.
- 2 (Sally / Birmingham) Sally .....
- 3 (her parents / Ireland) Her .....
- 4 (you / ???) I .....
- 5 (your mother / ???) .....

# is being done      has been done

(passive 2)

**A** is/are being ... (present continuous passive)



Somebody **is painting** the door. (active)

The door **is being painted**. (passive)

- My car is at the garage. It **is being repaired**. (= somebody is repairing it)
- Some new houses **are being built** opposite the park. (= somebody is building them)

Compare the *present continuous* and *present simple*:

- The office **is being cleaned** at the moment. (*continuous*)  
The office **is cleaned** every day. (*simple*)
- In Britain football matches **are** usually **played** on Saturday, but no matches **are being played** next Saturday.

For the present continuous and present simple, see Units 8 and 26.

**B** has/have been ... (present perfect passive)

- The office **is cleaned** every day. (*simple*)
- In Britain football matches **are** usually **played** on Saturday, but no matches **are being played** next Saturday.

For the present continuous and present simple, see Units 8 and 26.

**B** has/have been ... (*present perfect passive*)



BEFORE



NOW

Somebody **has painted** the door. (*active*)

The door **has been painted**. (*passive*)

- My key **has been stolen**. (= somebody has stolen it)
- My keys **have been stolen**. (= somebody has stolen them)
- I'm not going to the party. I **haven't been invited**. (= nobody has invited me)
- Has** this shirt **been washed**? (= Has somebody washed it?)

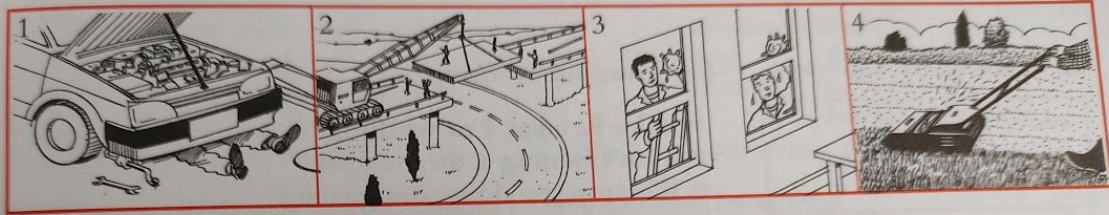
Compare the *present perfect* and *past simple*:

- The room is clean now. It **has been cleaned**. (*present perfect*)
- The room **was cleaned** yesterday. (*past simple*)
- I can't find my keys. I think they **'ve been stolen**. (*present perfect*)
- My keys **were stolen** last week. (*past simple*)

For the present perfect and past simple, see Unit 20.

## EXERCISES

### 22.1 What's happening?



(active)

(passive)

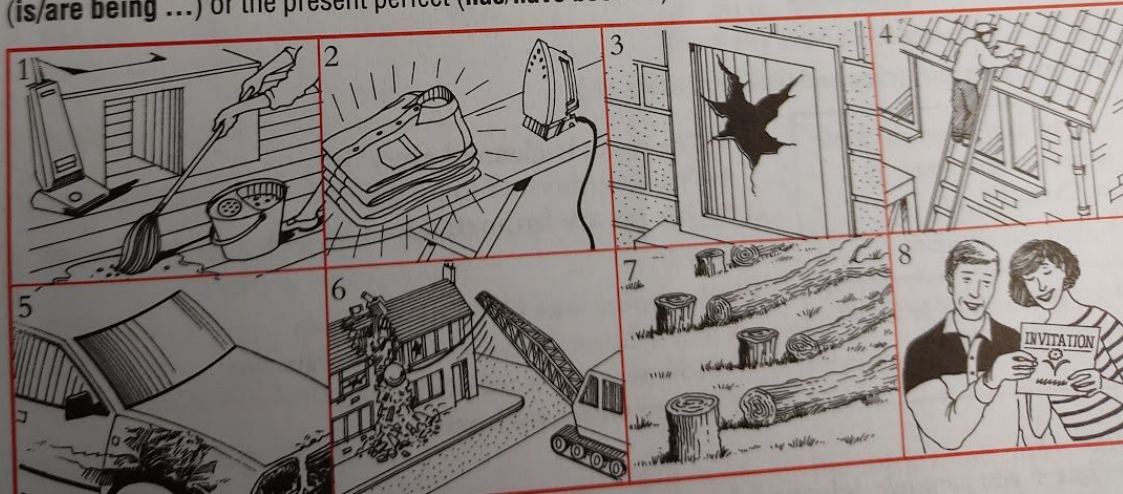
1 The car is being repaired.

3 The windows .....

2 A bridge .....

4 The grass .....

### 22.2 Look at the pictures. What is happening or what has happened? Use the present continuous (is/are being ...) or the present perfect (has/have been ...).



g them)

- 1 The car is being repaired.
- 2 A bridge .....

- 3 The windows .....
- 4 The grass .....

22.2

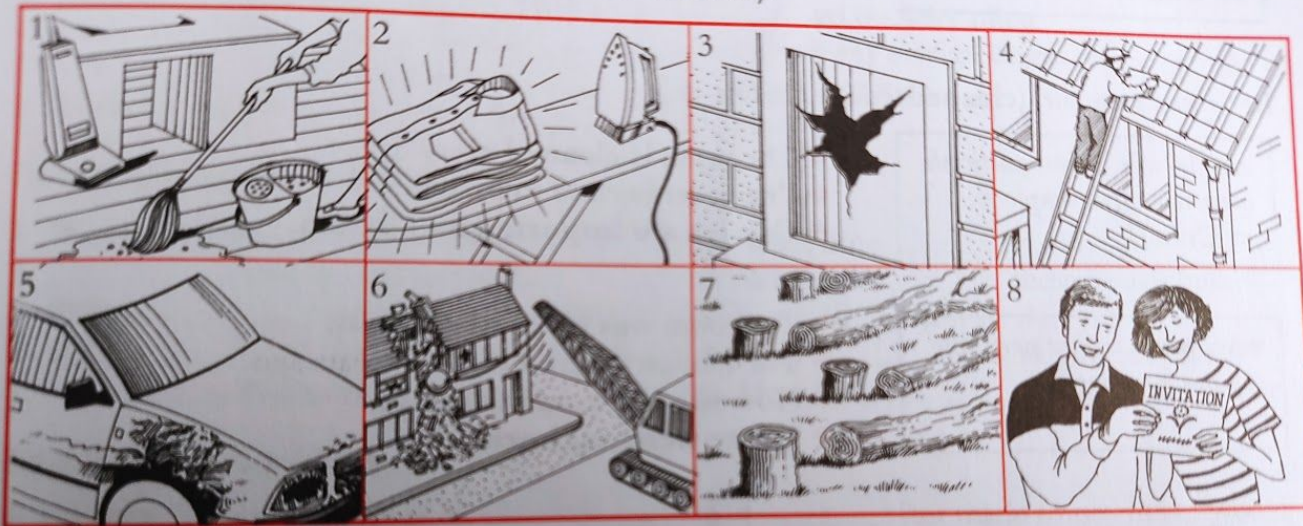
Look at the pictures. What is happening or what has happened? Use the present continuous (is/are being ...) or the present perfect (has/have been ...).



- 1 (the office / clean) The office is being cleaned.
- 2 (the shirts / iron) The shirts have been ironed.
- 3 (the window / break) The window .....
- 4 (the roof / repair) The roof .....
- 5 (the car / damage) .....
- 6 (the houses / knock / down) .....
- 7 (the trees / cut / down) .....
- 8 (they / invite / to a party) .....

Use brackets ( ) to complete the sentences. (Units 21 and 22)

- 2 Look at the pictures. What is happening or what has happened? Use the present continuous (is/are being ...) or the present perfect (has/have been ...).



- 1 (the office / clean) The office is being cleaned.  
 2 (the shirts / iron) The shirts have been ironed.  
 3 (the window / break) The window .....  
 4 (the roof / repair) The roof .....  
 5 (the car / damage) .....  
 6 (the houses / knock / down) .....  
 7 (the trees / cut / down) .....  
 8 (they / invite / to a party) .....



- 1 (the office / clean) The office is being cleaned.
- 2 (the shirts / iron) The shirts have been ironed.
- 3 (the window / break) The window .....
- 4 (the roof / repair) The roof .....
- 5 (the car / damage) .....
- 6 (the houses / knock / down) .....
- 7 (the trees / cut / down) .....
- 8 (they / invite / to a party) .....

Use the words in brackets (...) to complete the sentences. (Units 21 and 22)

- 1 I can't use my office at the moment. It is being painted (paint).
- 2 We didn't go to the party. We weren't invited (not/invite).
- 3 The washing machine was broken but it's OK now. It ..... (repair).
- 4 The washing machine ..... (repair) yesterday afternoon.
- 5 A factory is a place where things ..... (make).
- 6 How old are these houses? When ..... (they/build)?
- 7 A: ..... (the computer / use) at the moment?  
 B: Yes, Jim is using it.
- 8 I've never seen these flowers before. What ..... (they/call)?
- 9 Some trees ..... (blow) down in the storm last night.
- 10 The bridge is closed at the moment. It ..... (damage) last week  
 and it ..... (not/repair) yet.