Passive Voice Forms: Actions & Agents

> **Focus: is/are + past participle, was/were + past participle, Continuous & Perfect Passives, Modals, 'Get' Passive**

The **Passive Voice** is used when the focus is on the action itself, rather than who did it. The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

1. Basic Structure

Subject + form of "to be" + Past Participle (V3)

Tense	Structure (Be + V3)	Example
Present Simple	am / is / are + done	*The emails **are sent** daily.*
Past Simple	was / were + done	*The window **was broken** yesterday.*
Present Continuous	am / is / are **being** + done	*The house **is being painted** now.*
Past Continuous	was / were **being** + done	*Dinner **was being cooked** when I arrived.*
Present Perfect	has / have **been** + done	*The work **has been finished**.*
Past Perfect	had **been** + done	*The room **had been cleaned** before we entered.*

2. Passives with Modals and Infinitives

- **Modals (can, must, should, will):** Modal + **be** + Past Participle.
  - *This package **must be delivered** today.*
  - *The problem **cannot be solved** easily.*

- **Infinitives:** To **be** + Past Participle.
  - *There is a lot of work **to be done**.*
  - *I expect **to be invited** to the party.*

3. The 'Get' Passive

In informal English, we often use **get** instead of **be** to talk about things that happen, especially accidents or unexpected events.

- *He **got fired** from his job.* (Past Simple)
- *Be careful or you might **get hurt**.* (Modal)

4. Agents (By...)

If we want to say *who* or *what* did the action, we use **by**.

- *Active:* **Shakespeare** wrote Hamlet.
- *Passive:* Hamlet was written **by Shakespeare**.

Practice Exercises

A. Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using the **Passive Voice** form of the verbs in parentheses. Pay close attention to the time markers and context to choose the correct tense (Simple, Continuous, Perfect, Modal, or 'Get').

1. The rubbish _____ (collect) every Tuesday morning.

2. _____ the new regulations _____ (announce) by the CEO yet?

3. Unfortunately, the concert _____ (cancel) yesterday due to the storm.

4. Please wait in the lobby. Your room _____ (clean) right now.

5. He was upset because he _____ (not / invite) to the wedding last week.

6. This glass is fragile; it must _____ (handle) with care.

7. While I was walking home, I noticed that a new shop _____ (build) on the corner.

8. _____ the thief _____ (catch) by the police last night?

9. The report _____ (not / finish) by the time the meeting started.

10. Be careful with that knife, or you might _____ (get / cut).

11. Millions of dollars _____ (spend) on advertising every year.

12. Why _____ the car _____ (not / repair) yet? We need it for tomorrow!

13. I didn't realize that our conversation _____ (record).

14. Animals should _____ (not / feed) by visitors at the zoo.

15. How often _____ these machines _____ (service)?

Answer Key

1. is collected
2. Have ... been announced
3. was cancelled
4. is being cleaned
5. was not invited / hadn't been invited
6. be handled
7. was being built
8. Was ... caught
9. had not been finished
10. get cut
11. are spent
12. has ... not been repaired
13. was being recorded
14. not be fed
15. are ... serviced