

The Passive

I. Complete the sentences using one of these verbs in the correct form:

*cause damage hold include invite make overtake show
translate write*

1. Many accidents **are caused** by dangerous driving.
2. Cheese _____ from milk.
3. The roof of the building _____ in a storm a few days ago.
4. There's no need to leave a tip. Service _____ in the bill.
5. You _____ to the wedding. Why didn't you go?
6. A cinema is a place where films _____.
7. In the United States, elections for President _____ every four years.
8. Originally the book _____ in Spanish and a few years ago it _____ into English.
9. We were driving along quite fast but we _____ by lots of other cars.

II. Write questions using the passive. Some are present and some are past.

1. Ask about the telephone, (when/invent?) **When was the telephone invented?**
2. Ask about glass, (how/make?) How _____
3. Ask about Australia, (when/discover?) _____
4. Ask about silver, (what/use for?) _____
5. Ask about television, (when/invent?) _____

III. Put the verb into the correct form, present or past simple, active or passive.

1. It's a big factory. Five hundred people **are employed** (employ) there.
2. Water _____ (cover) most of the Earth's surface.
3. Most of the Earth's surface _____ (cover) by water.
4. The park gates _____ (lock) at 6.30 p.m. every evening.
5. The letter _____ (post) a week ago and it _____ (arrive) yesterday.
6. The boat _____ (sink) quickly but fortunately everybody _____ (rescue).
7. Ron's parents _____ (die) when he was very young. He and his sister _____ (bring) up by their grandparents.
8. I was born in London but I _____ (grow) up in the north of England.
9. While I was on holiday, my camera _____ (steal) from my hotel room.
10. While I was on holiday, my camera _____ (disappear) from my hotel room.
11. Why _____ (Sue/resign) from her job? Didn't she enjoy it?
12. Why _____ (Bill/sack) from his job? What did he do wrong?
13. The company is not independent. It _____ (own) by a much larger company.
14. I saw an accident last night. Somebody _____ (call) an ambulance nobody _____ (injure) so the ambulance _____ (not/need).
15. Where _____ (these photographs/take)? In London? _____ (you/take) them?

IV. Rewrite these sentences. Instead of using 'somebody' etc. write a passive sentence.

1. Somebody cleans the room every day. The room is cleaned every day.
2. They cancelled all flights because of fog.

All _____

3. People don't use this road very often.

This road _____

4. Somebody accused me of stealing money.

5. How do people learn languages?

How _____

6. People advised us not to go out alone.

V. What do these words mean? Use *it can...* or *it can't...*

If something is

1. washable, **it can be washed**
2. unusable, _____
3. unbreakable, it _____
4. invisible, _____
5. edible, it _____
6. portable, _____

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

carry cause make repair send spend wake up do

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 _____ 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.

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

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.

VIII. Make sentences from the words in brackets. Sometimes the verb is active, sometimes passive.

1. There's somebody behind us. (I think / we / follow) **I think we are 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?)

IX. When were they born? Choose five of these people and write a sentence for each. (Two of them were born in the same year.)

	<i>Beethoven</i>	<i>Galileo</i>	<i>Elvis Presley</i>	<i>Walt Disney</i>	<i>Martin Luther King</i>	<i>William Shakespeare</i>	<i>Agatha Christie</i>	<i>Mahatma Gandhi</i>	<i>Leonardo da Vinc</i>
	<i>1564</i>	<i>1891</i>	<i>1935</i>	<i>1452</i>	<i>1869</i>	<i>1929</i>	<i>1770</i>	<i>1901</i>	

1. Walt Disney was born in 1901.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. And you? I _____

X Write these sentences in another way, beginning in the way shown.

1. They didn't give me the money. **I wasn't given the money.**
2. They asked me some difficult questions at the interview.

I _____

3. Janet's colleagues gave her a present when she retired.

Janet _____

4. Nobody told me that George was ill.

I wasn't _____

5. How much will they pay you?

How much will you _____

6. I think they should have offered Tom the job.

I think Tom _____

7. Has anybody shown you what to do?

Have you _____

XI Write these sentences in another way, beginning as shown.

Use the underlined word in your sentence.

1. It is expected that the strike will end soon. **The strike is expected to end soon.**

2. It is expected that the weather will be good tomorrow.

The weather is _____

3. It is believed that the thieves got in through the kitchen window.

The thieves _____

4. It is reported that many people are homeless after the floods.

Many people _____

5. It is thought that the prisoner escaped by climbing over a wall.

The prisoner _____

6. It is alleged that the man drove through the town at 90 miles an hour.

The man is _____

7. It is reported that the building has been badly damaged by fire.

The building _____

8. It is said that the company is losing a lot of money.

The company _____

9. It is believed that the company lost a lot of money last year.

The company _____

10. It is expected that the company will lose money this year.

The company _____

XII.

People say a lot of things about Arthur. For example:

1. Arthur eats spiders.
2. He has 12 children
3. He is very rich.



4. He robbed a bank a long time ago.
5. He writes poetry.

Nobody knows for sure whether these things are true or not. Write sentences about Arthur using
(be) supposed to.

1. Arthur is supposed to eat spiders.
2. He _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

XIII.

Now you have to use (be) supposed to with its other meaning. In each example what happens is different from what is supposed to happen.

Use (be) supposed to + one of these verbs: ~~arrive~~ be block come ~~park~~ phone start
Some of the sentences are negative (like the first example).

- 1 You're not supposed to park here. It's private parking only.
- 2 The train was supposed to arrive at 11.30, but it was an hour late.
- 3 What are the children doing at home? They _____ at school at this time.
- 4 We _____ work at 8.15, but we rarely do anything before 8.30.
- 5 This door is a fire exit. You _____ it.
- 6 Oh dear! I _____ Ann but I completely forgot.
- 7 They arrived very early - at 2 o'clock. They _____ until 3.30.