

Passive and Causative Practice

Making passives

A. When do we make passives?

1. When we don't know who the subject is.

Someone stole all my books last night. – *My books were stolen last night.*

2. When the object is more important than the subject.

He gave John and Andy a new car for their birthday. – *John and Andy were given a new car for their birthday.*

3. Art culture film

JJ Abrams is directing the new Star Wars film. – *The new Star Wars film is being directed by JJ Abrams.*

4. Invention, experiments, science

Hubert Cecil Booth invented the vacuum cleaner. – *The vacuum cleaner was invented by Hubert Cecil Booth.*

B. When don't we make passives?

1. Intransitive or impersonal verbs

It is raining.

2. Opinions

I think I should go on holiday soon!

3. When the subject is more important than the other elements.

I ate four biscuits before you arrived.

C. Passives with two subjects.

Bi-transitive verbs allow for two different passives.

Someone gave Jane an umbrella for the rain yesterday.

Jane was given an umbrella for the rain yesterday.

An umbrella was given to Jane for the rain yesterday.

They are offering customers free samples of the product

Customers are being offered free samples of the product.

Free samples of the product are being offered to customers.

Depending on the focus, IO or DO become the subject. It is more common to make passives with the IO than the DO.

Causatives

Causative verbs express the idea of somebody causing something to happen or causing another person to do something.

make somebody do something (make + object + infinitive without to):
somebody requires another person to do something

- a. The barking dog made the postman run away.
 - b. The rain has made the tourists stay in the hotel this morning.
 - c. I don't think she can make her husband buy that expensive ring.
 - d. I always cry when I see sad movies.
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have something done (have + object + 3rd form of the verb):
somebody wants something to be done for them

- a. Did you have the car washed yesterday?
 - b. I have my hair cut once in 2-3 months.
 - c. We've had the lawn mowed by the neighbour's son.
 - d. Jane will clean the curtains at the dry cleaner's tomorrow.
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Note: **get** is often used instead of **have** in informal speech:

- a. Did you get your hair cut before the weekend?
 - b. We must get the house decorated for the wedding.
 - c. I must cut my hair for the party as soon as possible.
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get somebody to do something (get + object + infinitive with to):
somebody requires or inspires another person to do something

- a. Let's get mother to bake a cake on Sunday.
- b. I couldn't get my sister to wash my dirty overalls.
- c. The tap is leaking, get a plumber to fix it.
- d. She always gets me to help with her homework.

1. Write in the passive

- a. The Government is planning a new road near my house.
- b. The cleaner has cleaned the office.
- c. He had written three books before 1867.
- d. By this time tomorrow we will have signed the deal.
- e. Somebody should do the work.
- f. People speak Portuguese in Brazil.
- g. They are building a new stadium near the station.
- h. The wolf ate the princess.
- i. They offered the job to Simon.
- j. Julie taught students all the grammar rules in a morning.
- k. I sent John the email.
- l. Sophia sold the car to a doctor.
- m. I asked David the question about who was the greatest boxer of all time.

2. Write in the passive if possible

- a. Somebody was drinking very loudly at the party. It was annoying!
- b. All the windows had been cleaned before the storm.
- c. Somebody must have taken my wallet.
- d. Bill likes playing tennis.
- e. I sharpened Graham's pencil.
- f. Jane loves playing tennis.
- g. John was given a bar of chocolate for his birthday.
- h. If the students practice using the passive, they will understand it better.
- i. James might cook dinner.

3. Make causatives with these sentences.

- a. Tomorrow I am repairing the roof. The company is a very good one.
- b. Janes cuts her hair once a month at Macy's hairdressers. It's an affordable shop to go to.
- c. They are building a house. They are very good builders
- d. Someone took my car and didn't even ask me!
- e. "Where are you going?" Jane asked. "To wash the car at the petrol station."
- f. It seems that someone cleans our office on Tuesday, but not Wednesday.

- g. I believe that someone is preparing our food in the kitchen.
 - h. This company makes a film every year for its employees.
4. Make passives or causatives with these sentences.
- a. She is writing a letter.
 - b. The servant was punished by the master.
 - c. John would like someone to promote him.
 - d. Who wrote this letter?
 - e. May God bless you with happiness!
 - f. I have finished the job.
 - g. Bananas are being eaten by the child.
 - h. The workmen are coming tomorrow to repair the roof.
 - i. Meal is cooked by someone every day.
 - j. We hate people seeing us at the beach.
 - k. May you be blessed with happiness!
 - l. A house is being built by them.
 - m. The report was sent yesterday.
 - n. Amy thinks that someone is reading to her son.
 - o. Someone cleans my clothes at the dry cleaners.
 - p. My little niece loves people chasing her.
 - q. English is taught by him.
 - r. I understand that someone hit Greg.
 - s. Is it the case that the report was sent on time?
 - t. I think that someone built the house in 1814.
 - u. I understand that someone fired John.
 - v. She hates people taking her picture.
 - w. It seems that someone lost the papers.
 - x. I hope someone will examine me soon.
 - y. The cat enjoys someone tickling him.

5. Extra practice

- a. My grandfather built this house in 1943.
- b. Picasso was painting Guernica at that time.
- c. John will tell you later.
- d. The traffic might have delayed Jimmy.
- e. Everybody loves Mr Brown.
- f. At six o'clock someone was telling a story.
- g. If the boss gave Anna the new computer, would she like it?
- h. Lucy threw the child the ball.
- i. He teaches English.
- j. He was writing a book.
- k. A blue shirt was worn by him.
- l. I like someone looking after me when I'm ill.
- m. They claim that someone stole the money.
- n. We imagined that the storm damaged the car.