

# ING-1BAC A

## THEORY:

## The Passive Voice

An **active** sentence like **I drank two cups of coffee** has the subject first (the person or thing that does the verb), followed by the verb, and finally the object (the person or thing that the action happens to).

So, in this example, the subject is 'I', the verb is 'drank' and the object is 'two cups of coffee'.

But, we don't always need to make sentences this way. We might want to put the object first, or perhaps we don't want to say who did something. This can happen for lots of reasons (see the explanation further down the page). In this case, we can use a passive, which puts the object first:

- Two cups of coffee were drunk (we can add 'by me' if we want, but it isn't necessary).

### How to make the Passive in English

We make the passive by putting the verb 'to be' into whatever tense we need and then adding the **past participle**. For regular verbs, we make the past participle by adding 'ed' to the infinitive. So **play** becomes **played**.

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Passive</b>
<b>present simple</b>	I <b>make</b> a cake.	A cake <b>is made</b> (by me).
<b>present continuous</b>	I <b>am making</b> a cake.	A cake <b>is being made</b> (by me).
<b>past simple</b>	I <b>made</b> a cake.	A cake <b>was made</b> (by me).
<b>past continuous</b>	I <b>was making</b> a cake.	A cake <b>was being made</b> (by me).
<b>present perfect</b>	I <b>have made</b> a cake.	A cake <b>has been made</b> (by me).
<b>pres. perf. continuous</b>	I <b>have been making</b> a cake.	A cake <b>has been being made</b> (by me).
<b>past perfect</b>	I <b>had made</b> a cake.	A cake <b>had been made</b> (by me).
<b>future simple</b>	I <b>will make</b> a cake.	A cake <b>will be made</b> (by me).
<b>future perfect</b>	I <b>will have made</b> a cake.	A cake <b>will have been made</b> (by me).

When should we use the Passive?

**1. When we want to change the focus of the sentence:**

•The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci. (We are more interested in the painting than the artist in this sentence)

**2. When who or what causes the action is unknown or unimportant or obvious or 'people in general':**

- He was arrested (obvious agent, the police).
- My bike has been stolen (unknown agent).
- The road is being repaired (unimportant agent).
- The form can be obtained from the post office (people in general).

**3. In factual or scientific writing:**

•The chemical is placed in a test tube and the data entered into the computer.

**4. In formal writing instead of using someone/ people/ they (these can be used in speaking or informal writing):**

•The brochure will be finished next month.

**5. In order to put the new information at the end of the sentence to improve style:**

•Three books are used regularly in the class. The books were written by Dr. Bell. ('Dr. Bell wrote the books' sound clumsy)

**6. When the subject is very long:**

•I was surprised by how well the students did in the test. (More natural than: 'how well the students did in the test surprised me')

( an abstract taken from : [www.perfect-english-grammar.com](http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com) )

### **The Causative Passive**

**We use the causative in English to say that we have arranged for someone to do something for us.**

He had his jacket cleaned.

(He didn't clean it himself.)

The causative is formed with 'have + object + past participle' The past participle has a passive meaning.

**Questions and negations of the verb 'have' are formed with do/does or did in the past simple.**

Did you have your camera fixed?

**In informal conversations we can use 'get' instead of 'have'.**

She's getting her hair done again.

He got his jacket cleaned..

# ING-1BAC A

## PRACTICE:

### The Passive Voice

**6. Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets. Do not change the original meaning.**

1. I waited while the doctor was examining my friend. ( examined )
2. They should have checked the blood pressure yesterday. ( been )
3. Has a new health club been opened in your area? ( they )
4. Do they keep patients overnight after surgery? ( kept )
5. The scientists are going to present the results at next weeeek`s conference. ( be )
6. Was Zumba invented by a South American? ( invented )
7. You can´t make appointments online. ( made )
8. The doctor will see you in two weeks. ( seen )

**7. Rewrite the sentences in the passive in two ways. Omit the agent where logical.**

1. The lab sends daily reports to the doctors.
2. The fitness instructor is going to show us the new equipment.
3. They should tell always patients the truth.
4. Did you give this patient the right medicine?
5. They may have sent us the wrong patient´s file.
6. The health club was offering members free lessons.
7. The nurse is bringing us some tea.
8. They haven´t shown me my tests results.

**8. Write sentences using the words given. Use a causative form and make any other necessary changes**

1. I take good care of my teeth. I / them / clean / every six months.
2. Sorry, I can´t talk now. I / eyes / test.
3. This spot in my back was making me nervous. That´s why / I / it / check/ yesterday.
4. The baby is a week old. His mother / not vaccinate / him / yet.
5. Your arm may be broken. You / should it / X-ray.
6. I´ve been dieting for weeks. I / my body fat / meassure tomorrow.

## 9. Complete the sentences with the verbs below using a causative form.

Do \* take \* reschedule \* examine \* take out

1. I... my son ... by a doctor twice this week, but he still doesn't feel well .
2. I ... two teeth... tomorrow. I hope it doesn't hurt!
3. They... the operation...in Germany last year. It was very successful.
4. She...her blood pressure...every week. It is too high, she takes medicine.
5. The doctor... some appointments... . His secretary is calling the patients now.

## ING-1BAC A

### SOLUTIONS:

#### ex 6 )

1. I waited ...my friend was being examined by the doctor.
2. His blood... should have been checked yesterday.
3. Have they opened a ..club in your area?
4. Are patients kept overnight...surgery?
5. The results are going to be presented at ,, conference.
6. Did a south American invent Zumba ?
7. Appointments can't be made online.
8. You will be seen by the doctor in two weeks.

#### ex 7 )

1. The doctors are sent daily reports by the lab./ Daily reports are sent to the doctors by the lab.
2. We are going to be shown the new equipment ( by the fitness instructor ) / The new equipment is going to be shown to us.
3. Patients should always be told the truth./ The truth should always be told to patients.
4. Was this patient given the right medicine? / Was the right medicine given to this patient?
5. We may have been sent the wrong patient's file. / The wrong patient's file may have been sent to us.
6. Health club members were being offered free lessons. / Free lessons were being offered to health club members.
7. We are being brought some tea ( by the nurse ). / Some tea is being brought to us ( by the nurse )
8. I haven't been shown my test results. / My test results haven't been shown to me.

**ex 8 )**

1. I have / get them cleaned every six months.
2. Sorry, I m having my eyes tested.
3. That´s why I had / got checked it yesterday.
4. His mother hasn´t had him vaccinated yet.
5. You should have / get it x-rayed.
6. I´m going to have my body fat measured tomorrow.

**ex 9 )**

- 1.The I had my son examined by a doctor twice this week, but he still doesn´t feel well.
2. I´m having / getting two teeth taken out tomorrow. I hope it doesn´t hurt!
3. They had the operation done in Germany last year. It was very successful.
4. She has / gets her blood pressure taken every week. It is too high, she takes medicine.
5. The doctor is having some appointments rescheduled . His secretary is calling the patients now.