

THE PASSIVE VOICE



THE PASSIVE VOICE



What about this wedding dress? It **was designed** by Sara O'Neill.

Yes, it's lovely.

THE PASSIVE VOICE



USES

1. To make more **polite** or **formal** statements.
2. When the action is more important than the agent.
3. To put emphasis on the agent.
4. When the agent is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context.

FORMING THE PASSIVE

A red ribbon graphic with a white border, tilted diagonally from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The word "EXAMPLE" is written in white capital letters on the ribbon.

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

1. Identify parts of the speech

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales
Subj. verb object complement

1. Identify parts
of the speech

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

2. Object becomes
passive subject

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

Their clothes

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

Their clothes

3. Turn verb into the passive voice

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

Their clothes are bought

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

Their clothes are bought in the sales

FORMING THE PASSIVE

EXAMPLE

They buy their clothes in the sales

Their clothes are bought in the
sales by them

FORMING THE PASSIVE 2

A red ribbon graphic with a white border, pointing towards the example sentence.

EXAMPLE

The judge gave Amanda a letter

FORMING THE PASSIVE 2



EXAMPLE

The judge gave Amanda a letter

Subj. verb Obj 1. Obj 2.

FORMING THE PASSIVE 2

A red ribbon graphic with a white border, pointing towards the example sentence.

EXAMPLE

The judge gave Amanda a letter

FORMING THE PASSIVE 2

EXAMPLE

The judge gave Amanda a letter

1. Amanda was given a letter by the judge.

FORMING THE PASSIVE 2

EXAMPLE

The judge gave Amanda a letter

1. Amanda was given a letter by the judge.
2. A letter was given **to** Amanda by the judge.

OMITTING THE AGENT

1. If the agent (doer of the action) is **unknown, not interesting** or **obvious** to understand.
2. If the subject of the active voice is: somebody, they, someone...



THE PASSIVE VOICE

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
simple tenses	<i>They import all the clothes from China. Did Fabio design her dress?</i>	<i>All the clothes are imported from China. Was her dress designed by Fabio?</i>
continuous tenses	<i>Somebody's washing her jeans. They weren't selling those designs last year.</i>	<i>Her jeans are being washed. Those designs weren't being sold last year.</i>
perfect tenses	<i>I haven't ironed your shirt yet. People had seen that design before.</i>	<i>Your shirt hasn't been ironed yet. That design had been seen before.</i>
will and infinitives	<i>They will post the results tomorrow. We need to repair your shoes. I'm not going to finish the report today.</i>	<i>The results will be posted tomorrow. Your shoes need to be repaired. The report isn't going to be finished today.</i>
-ing forms	<i>I hate people shouting at me.</i>	<i>I hate being shouted at.</i>



Verbs with no object (intransitive verbs, e.g. *arrive, come, grow up, happen, wait*) cannot be made passive:

~~*X I was grown up in Edinburgh.*~~ ✓ *I grew up in Edinburgh.*

~~*X An email has been arrived.*~~ ✓ *An email has arrived.*

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Passives with
modal and
other verbs



WARNING! Do not wash silk in this machine. Silk must be washed by hand or dry-cleaned.



THE PASSIVE VOICE

Modal verbs

We make the passive form of modal verbs with the modal verb (+ *not*) + *be* + past participle.
There is a perfect form – modal verb (+ *not*) + *have been* + past participle.

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Present	<i>You must wash silk by hand. You should not iron this jumper.</i>	<i>Silk must be washed by hand. This jumper should not be ironed.</i>
Perfect	<i>They might have turned the electricity off. She couldn't have washed it yet.</i>	<i>The electricity might have been turned off. It couldn't have been washed yet.</i>

We often use modal present passives for written instructions and rules:
Silk must be washed by hand or dry-cleaned. These lights cannot be used outside.

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Sarah has given away Sia's CDs.

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Sarah has given **away** Sia's CDs.

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Subj.

Verb

Object 1

Sarah has given away Sia's CDs.

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Subj.

Verb

Object 1

Sarah has given away Sia's CDs.

Sia's CDs



THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Subj.

Verb

Object 1

Sarah has given away Sia's CDs.



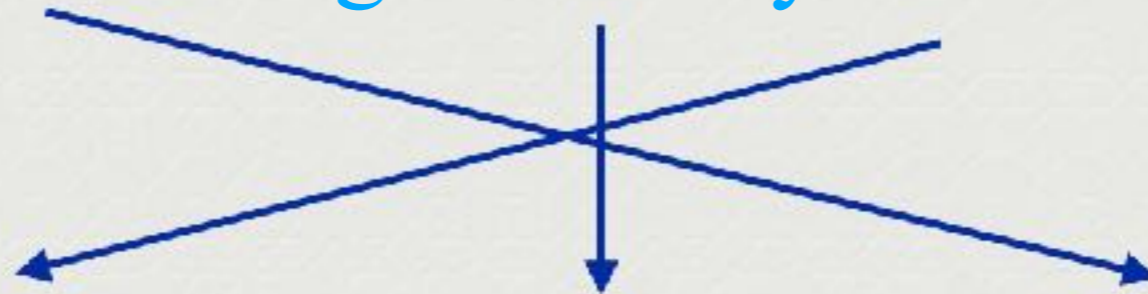
Sia's CDs have been given away

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Subj. Verb Object 1

Sarah has given away Sia's CDs.



Sia's CDs have been given away BY Sarah

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Verb + adverb/preposition

Subj. Verb Object 1
Sarah has given away Sia's CDs.



Sia's CDs have been given away BY Sarah

We don't separate the verb and the adverb:

~~Sia's CDs have been give by Sarah away.~~

Let's practice...



1. They were serving tea.
2. William will have to call the doctor.
3. Somebody can deal with the problem.

Let's practice...



1. They were serving tea.

Tea was being served (~~by them~~)

2. William will have to call the doctor.

3. Somebody can deal with the problem.

Let's practice...



1. They were serving tea.

Tea was being served (~~by them~~)

2. William will have to call the doctor.

The doctor will have to be called by William

3. Somebody can deal with the problem.

Let's practice...



1. They were serving tea.

Tea was being served (~~by them~~)

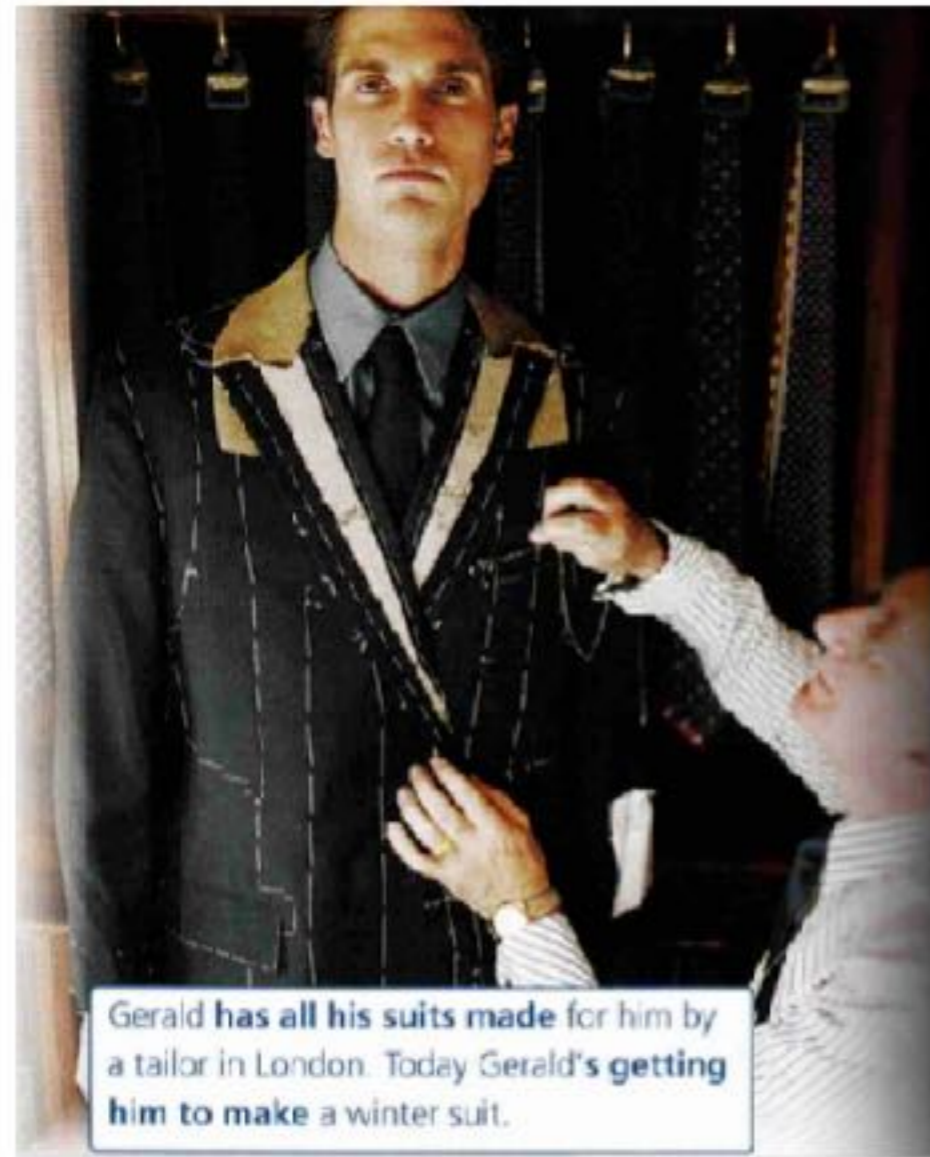
2. William will have to call the doctor.

The doctor will have to be called by William

3. Somebody can deal with the problem.

The problem can be dealt with (~~by somebody~~)

THE CAUSATIVE



Gerald **has all his suits made** for him by a tailor in London. Today Gerald's **getting him to make** a winter suit.

- Did you do it yourself?
- Did you pay for that?

THE CAUSATIVE

1 *have/get something done*

We use *have something done* (*have* + object + past participle) when somebody does something for us (something we want or ask them to do):

Gerald has all his suits made for him.

(His tailor makes them.)

We're going to have our kitchen painted.

(Decorators are going to do it.)

We can use this pattern with all tenses of *have* and make questions and negatives:

Will they have their house painted next year?



THE CAUSATIVE

HAVE/GET + something + Past participle



I / fix / my car

THE CAUSATIVE

HAVE/GET + something + Past participle



I / fix / my car

I have my car fixed.

Let's practice...



1. Their new house is being decorated at the moment.
2. Our new furniture is going to be delivered tomorrow.
3. The band's new single has just been recorded.

Let's practice...



1. Their new house is being decorated at the moment.

They are having their new house decorated...

2. Our new furniture is going to be delivered tomorrow.

3. The band's new single has just been recorded.

Let's practice...



1. Their new house is being decorated at the moment.

They are having their new house decorated...

2. Our new furniture is going to be delivered tomorrow.

We are going to have our new furniture delivered...

3. The band's new single has just been recorded.

Let's practice...



1. Their new house is being decorated at the moment.

They are having their new house decorated...

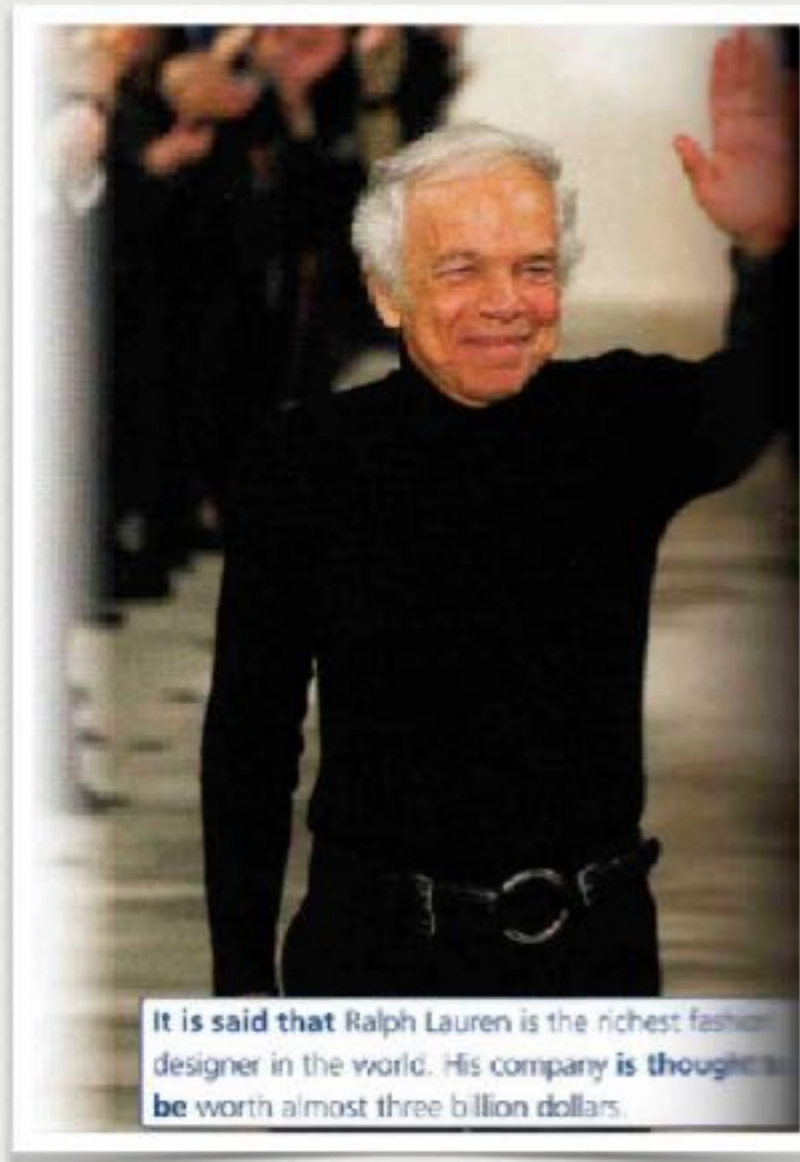
2. Our new furniture is going to be delivered tomorrow.

We are going to have our new furniture delivered...

3. The band's new single has just been recorded.

The band has just had their new single recorded.

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS



PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

- To talk about **general feelings or beliefs** :
His house is thought to cost almost one billion dollars.

- When **we don't know who** made the statement:
It was suggested that the factory should be closed.

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

Patterns with passive reporting verbs

**believe, consider, expect, know, report,
understand, say, state and think**

- **It + passive verb + *that* clause:**

It is said that Ralph Lauren is the world's richest fashion designer.

- **Subject + passive verb + to + infinitive :**

The American team is expected to win .

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

INFINITIVE FORMS:

PRESENT OR FUTURE: To write

PAST TENSE: to have written

CONTINUOUS FORM: to be writing //
to have been writing

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They say she **works** hard

She is said **to** _____ hard

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They say she works hard

She is said to work hard

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They say she **played** well

She is said **to** _____ well

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They say she **played** well

She is said **to have played** well

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They say she **has done** well

She is said **to** _____ well

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They said she has done well

She was said to have done well

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They believe he is doing sth.

He is believed to _____ sth.

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

They believe he is doing sth.

He is believed to be doing sth.

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

She believes the repairs **have been finished.**

The repairs are believed **to**

_____.

PASSIVE: REPORTING VERBS

She believes the repairs have been finished.

The repairs are believed to have been finished.

Let's practice...



1. People think that Johnson is in Cardiff.
2. People believed that Johnson left Cardiff last month
3. People considered that the Government had spent too much.

Let's practice...



1. People think that Johnson is in Cardiff.

Johnson is thought to be in Cardiff / It is thought that...

2. People believed that Johnson left Cardiff last month

3. People considered that the Government had spent too much.

Let's practice...



1. People think that Johnson is in Cardiff.

Johnson is thought to be in Cardiff / It is thought that...

2. People believed that Johnson left Cardiff last month

Johnson was believed to have left Cardiff last month / It was believed that Johnson left Cardiff last month.

3. People considered that the Government had spent too much.

Let's practice...



1. People think that Johnson is in Cardiff.

Johnson is thought to be in Cardiff / It is thought that...

2. People believed that Johnson left Cardiff last month

Johnson was believed to have left Cardiff last month / It was believed that Johnson left Cardiff last month.

3. People considered that the Government had spent too much.

The Government was considered to have spent too much / It is considered that the Government had spent too much.

