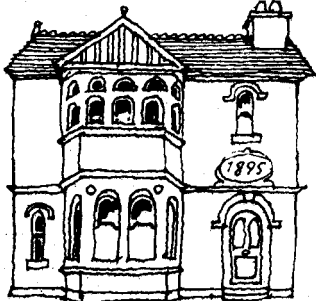


UNIT 42 Passive (1) (be done / have been done)

a) *Active and passive* Study this example:



This house was built in 1895.

This is a *passive* sentence. Compare:

Somebody built this house in 1895. (*active*)

This house was built in 1895. (*passive*)

We often prefer the passive when it is not so important who or what did the action. In this example, it is not so important who built the house.

In a passive sentence, if you want to say who did or what caused the action, use **by**:

- This house was built **by my grandfather**. (= my grandfather built it)
- Have you ever been bitten **by a dog**? (= Has a dog ever bitten you?)

b) In passive sentences we use the correct form of **be (is/are/was/were/has been etc.)** + the *past participle*:

(be) done (be) cleaned (be) damaged (be) built (be) seen

For irregular past participles (done/seen/written etc.) see Appendix 2.

For the passive of the present and past tenses see Unit 43.

c) The *passive infinitive* is **be done / be cleaned / be built** etc. We use the infinitive after modal verbs (**will, can, must** etc.) and a number of other verbs (for example: **have to, be going to, want to**). Compare:

Active: We can solve this problem.

Passive: This problem can be solved.

- The new hotel **will be opened** next year.
- George **might be sent** to America by his company in August.
- The music at the party was very loud and **could be heard** from far away.
- This room **is going to be painted** next week.
- Go away! I **want to be left** alone.

There is a *past infinitive* form: **have been done / have been cleaned / have been built** etc.:

Active: Somebody **should have cleaned** the windows yesterday.

Passive: The windows **should have been cleaned** yesterday.

- My bicycle has disappeared. It **must have been stolen**.
- She **wouldn't have been injured** if she had been wearing a seat-belt.
- The weather was awful. The football match **ought to have been cancelled**.

UNIT 42 Exercises

- 42.1** Complete these sentences with one of the following verbs (in the correct form):
arrest wake knock check translate find drive make
spend ~~hear~~ carry

Example: The music at the party was very loud and could be heard from far away.

- 1 A decision will not until the next meeting.
 - 2 That building is dangerous. It ought to down before it falls down.
 - 3 When you go through Customs, your luggage may by a customs officer.
 - 4 I told the hotel receptionist that I wanted to up at 6.30.
 - 5 Her new book will probably into a number of foreign languages.
 - 6 If you kicked a policeman, you'd
 - 7 Police are looking for the missing boy. He can't anywhere.
 - 8 Do you think that less money should on arms?
 - 9 The injured man couldn't walk and had to
 - 10 I don't mind driving but I prefer to by other people.
-

- 42.2** Here again you have to complete a sentence. This time use these verbs:
must ~~should~~ shouldn't might would

Example: Did anyone clean the windows?

No. They should have been cleaned but they weren't.

- 1 A: Did anyone invite Ann to the party?
B: I don't know. She - I'm not sure.
 - 2 A: Did anyone see you?
B: No, but I if it hadn't been so dark.
 - 3 A: Has someone repaired this machine?
B: Well, it's working again so it
 - 4 A: Did someone throw those old letters away?
B: Yes, but it was a mistake. They
-

- 42.3** Now you have to read a sentence and write another sentence with the same meaning:

Example: We can solve the problem. The problem can be solved

- 1 People should send their complaints to the head office.
Complaints
- 2 They had to postpone the meeting because of illness.
The meeting
- 3 Somebody might have stolen your car if you had left the keys in it.
Your car
- 4 An electrical fault could have caused the fire.
The fire
- 5 They are going to hold next year's congress in San Francisco.
Next year's congress
- 6 They shouldn't have played the football match in such bad weather.
The football match