

# UNIT 43

## Passive (2) (present and past tenses)

These are the passive forms of the present and past tenses:

*Present simple*     **am/is/are + done/cleaned etc.**

*Active:*     Somebody cleans **this room** every day.

*Passive:*     **This room** is cleaned every day.

Many accidents **are caused** by dangerous driving.

I'm **not often invited** to parties.

How many people **are injured** in road accidents every day?

*Past simple*     **was/were + done/cleaned etc.**

*Active:*     Somebody cleaned **this room** yesterday.

*Passive:*     **This room** was cleaned yesterday.

During the night we **were all woken up** by a loud explosion.

When **was that castle built**?

The house **wasn't damaged** in the storm but a tree **was blown down**.

*Present continuous*     **am/is/are being + done/cleaned etc.**

*Active:*     Somebody is cleaning **the room** at the moment.

*Passive:*     **The room** is being cleaned at the moment.

Look at those old houses! They **are being knocked down**.

(shop assistant to customer) Are you **being served**, madam?

*Past continuous*     **was/were being + done/cleaned etc.**

*Active:*     Somebody was cleaning **the room** when I arrived.

*Passive:*     **The room** was being cleaned when I arrived.

Suddenly I heard footsteps behind me. We **were being followed**.

*Present perfect*     **have/has been + done/cleaned etc.**

*Active:*     The room looks nice. Somebody **has cleaned it**.

*Passive:*     The room looks nice. **It** has been cleaned.

Have you heard the news? The president **has been shot**.

**Have you ever been bitten** by a dog?

I'm not going to the party. I **haven't been invited**.

*Past perfect*     **had been + done/cleaned etc.**

*Active:*     The room looked much better. Somebody **had cleaned it**.

*Passive:*     The room looked much better. **It** had been cleaned.

Jim didn't know about the change of plans. He **hadn't been told**.

## UNIT 43 Exercises

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**43.1** In this exercise you have to read a sentence and then write another sentence with the same meaning. Begin each sentence as shown.

Examples: Somebody stole my bag in the shop. My bag was stolen in the shop.

The police have arrested three men.

Three men have been arrested by the police.

- 1 The bill includes service. Service ..... in the bill.
  - 2 People don't use this road very often. This road .....
  - 3 They cancelled all flights because of fog. All flights .....
  - 4 Somebody accused me of stealing the money. I .....
  - 5 They are building a new ring-road round the city.  
A new ring-road .....
  - 6 I didn't realise that someone was recording our conversation.  
I didn't realise that our conversation .....
  - 7 They have changed the date of the meeting. The date of the meeting .....
  - 8 Brian told me that somebody had attacked and robbed him in the street.  
Brian told me that he .....
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**43.2** This time you have to make a passive sentence from the words in brackets.

Examples: That church looks very old. (when / it / build?) When was it built?

A: Is Margaret popular?

B: Yes. (she / like / by everybody) She is liked by everybody.

- 1 This is a very popular television programme. (every week it / watch / by millions of people) Every week it .....
- 2 What happens to the cars produced in this factory? (most of them / export?) .....
- 3 A: Was there any trouble at the demonstration?  
B: Yes. (about 20 people / arrest) .....
- 4 A: There is no longer military service in Britain.  
B: Really? (when / it / abolish?) .....
- 5 A: Did anybody call an ambulance to the scene of the accident?  
B: Yes. (but nobody / injure / so it / not / need) .....
- 6 A: Last night someone broke into our house.  
B: Oh dear. (anything / take?) .....
- 7 Mr Kelly can't use his office at the moment. (it / redecorate) .....
- 8 George didn't have his car yesterday. (it / service / at the garage) .....
- 9 Where's my bicycle? It's gone! (it / steal!) .....
- 10 The people next door disappeared six months ago. (they / not / see / since then) .....
- 11 This room looks different. (it / paint / since I was last here?) .....
- 12 A tree was lying across the road. (it / blow / down in the storm) .....