

UNIT 44

Passive (3)

a) Some verbs can have two objects. For example **offer**:

They didn't offer **Ann the job**. (the two objects are **Ann and the job**)

So it is possible to make two different passive sentences:

- **Ann** wasn't offered the job.
- **The job** wasn't offered to Ann.

It is more usual for the passive sentence to begin with the person.

Other verbs like **offer** which can have two objects are:

ask tell give send show teach pay

Here are some examples of passive sentences with these verbs:

- **I was given** two hours to make my decision. (= they gave me two hours)
- **The men were paid** £800 to do the job. (= someone paid the men £800)
- **Have you been shown** the new machine? (= has anyone shown you the new machine?)

b) **Born**: remember that **be born** is a *passive* verb and is usually past:

- Where were you **born**? (*not* 'are you born') }
- **I was born** in Chicago. (*not* 'I am born') } - *past simple*
- How many babies **are born** in this hospital every day? - *present simple*

c) The passive **-ing** form is **being done / being cleaned** etc.:

Active: I don't like people **telling** me what to do.

Passive: I don't like **being told** what to do.

- I remember **being given** a toy drum on my fifth birthday. (= I remember someone giving me ...)
- Hurry up! You know Mr. Miller hates **being kept** waiting. (= he hates people keeping him waiting)
- He climbed over the wall without **being seen**. (= without anyone seeing him)

d) Sometimes you can use **get** instead of **be** in the passive:

- There was a fight at the party but nobody **got** hurt. (= nobody was hurt)
- **Did Ann get** offered the job? (= was Ann offered the job?)

You can use **get** in the passive to say that something happens to someone or something.

Often the action is not planned; it happens by chance:

- The dog **got** run over by a car. (= the dog was run over)

In other types of situation **get** is not usually possible:

- George **is** liked by everyone. (*not* 'gets liked')

Get is used mainly in informal spoken English. You can use **be** in all situations.

UNIT 44 Exercises

44.1 In this exercise you have to read a sentence and then write a new sentence with the same meaning. Begin in the way shown each time.

Example: They didn't offer Ann the job. Ann wasn't offered the job.

- 1 They don't pay Jim very much. Jim
- 2 They will ask you a lot of questions at the interview. You
- 3 Nobody told me that George was ill. I
- 4 His colleagues gave him a present when he retired. He
- 5 We will send you your examination results as soon as they are ready. You
- 6 They didn't ask me my name. I
- 7 I think they should have offered Tom the job. I think Tom

44.2 When were these famous people born? You have to choose the right year for each person: 1889 1770 1452 ~~1870~~ 1564

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Lenin <u>was born in 1870</u> . | 4 Charlie Chaplin |
| 2 Shakespeare | 5 Beethoven |
| 3 Leonardo da Vinci | 6 And you? I |

44.3 This time you have to complete the sentences. Each time you have to use **being** with one of these verbs: ~~keep~~ pay attack give invite use ask

Example: Mr Miller doesn't like being kept waiting.

- 1 He came to the party without
- 2 She won't go out alone after dark. She is afraid of
- 3 I don't like stupid questions.
- 4 Few people are prepared to work without
- 5 Mr Kelly doesn't like his phone by other people.
- 6 Most people like presents.

44.4 Here too you have to complete the sentences. This time make a passive sentence with **get** and one of these verbs: break catch sting use damage ~~hurt~~ steal

Example: There was a fight at the party but nobody got hurt

- 1 Ted by a bee while he was sitting in the garden.
- 2 How did that window ?
- 3 Did any of these houses in the storm last night?
- 4 These tennis courts don't often. Not many people want to play.
- 5 If you want to break the law, make sure that you don't
- 6 I used to have a bicycle but it