

THE PASSIVE VOICE

Transitive verbs have both **active** and **passive** forms:

active		passive
The hunter killed the lion.	>>	The lion was killed by the hunter.
Someone has cleaned the windows	>>	The windows have been cleaned

The passive forms are made up of the verb **be** with a **past participle**:

	be	past participle	
English	is	spoken	all over the world
The windows	have been	cleaned	
Lunch	was being	served	
The work	will be	finished	soon
They	might have been	invited	to the party

We sometimes use the verb **get** to form the passive:

Be careful with the glass. It might **get** broken.

Peter **got** hurt in a crash.

If we want to show the person or thing doing the action we use **by**:

She was attacked **by** a dangerous dog.

The money was stolen **by** her husband.

We can use the **indirect object** as the subject of a passive verb:

active		passive
I gave him a book for his birthday	>>	He was given a book for his birthday.
Someone sent her a cheque for a thousand euros	>>	She was sent a cheque for a thousand euros.

We can use **phrasal verbs** in the passive:

active		passive
They called off the meeting.	>>	The meeting was called off .

active		passive
His grandmother looked after him.	>>	He was looked after by his grandmother.
They will send him away to school.	>>	He will be sent away to school.

Some verbs very **frequently used in the passive** are followed by the **to-infinitive**:

be supposed to	be expected to	be asked to
be scheduled to	be allowed to	be told to

John **has been asked to** make a speech at the meeting.

You **are supposed to** wear a uniform.

The meeting **is scheduled to** start at seven.