

## GRAMMAR GUIDE

### The passive

#### 1a Look at the sentences and answer the questions below.

- Eruptions **are** often **caused** by seismic activity.
- Some volcanic eruptions **can't be** easily **seen**.
- Residents **were told** to stay away.
- Perhaps the farms **will be destroyed** by the volcano.

- Are all the sentences passive?
- What tense is each sentence?
- How do we form the passive?
- What does *by* introduce?

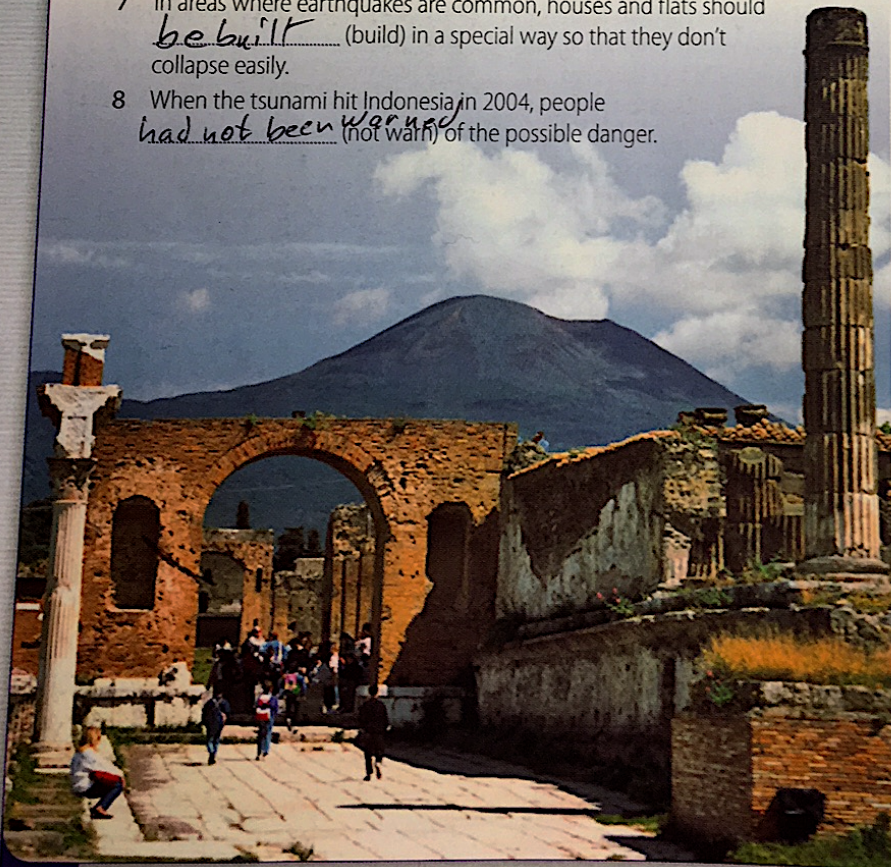
#### 1b Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

- We use the passive when we are interested mainly in an action, not the person who does the action. T/F
- We use the passive when we don't know the person who does the action. T/F
- We use the passive when it is obvious who does the action. T/F

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#### 2 Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verbs given.

- Whole cities and towns, like Pompeii, were destroyed (destroy) by volcanoes. *were have been destroyed*
- Right now, several types of animals and plants are being made (make) extinct. *are being made*
- Some experts think the weather will be controlled (control) by humans one day. *will be controlled*
- Between 10,000 and 100,000 people were killed (kill) by an earthquake in Lisbon in 1755. *were killed*
- Some forest fires can be seen (see) from space. *be seen*
- In the press, the strength of earthquakes is measured (measure) using the Richter Scale. *is measured*
- In areas where earthquakes are common, houses and flats should be built (build) in a special way so that they don't collapse easily. *be built*
- When the tsunami hit Indonesia in 2004, people had not been warned (not warn) of the possible danger. *had not been warned*



#### 3 Find the mistakes and rewrite them correctly.

- Some areas of Africa have ~~being~~ affected by a terrible drought. *been*
- Twenty people were ~~save~~ in the mountains by a specialist rescue team yesterday. *saved*
- A huge landslide ~~was~~ hit a small town in Peru last week. *hit*
- Some people think that one day the earth will be destroyed ~~by~~ a big meteorite. *by*
- Our house ~~was~~ been damaged by torrential rain. *was*
- More hurricanes have ~~been~~ predicted for this summer. *been*
- Have ~~been~~ any people injured in the fire? *been*
- In rescue situations I think children must ~~be~~ helped first. *be*

## GRAMMAR GUIDE

### The passive – verbs with two objects

#### 4a Look at the sentences and read the explanation below.

- They gave the scientists no warning.
- 2a No warning was given to the scientists.
- 2b The scientists were given no warning.

Some verbs are followed by two objects, one usually a thing and the other a person. When this happens, we can make two different passive sentences (2a/2b).

#### 4b Is it more common to use the thing (2a) or the person (2b) as the subject?

#### 4c These verbs can be followed by two objects. Check their meanings in a dictionary if necessary.

bring buy lend offer owe  
pay promise **refuse** send show  
teach tell

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#### 5 Which sentence in each pair is more natural?

- 1a The survivors were given water.
  - 1b Water was given to the survivors.
- 2a Help was promised to them.
  - 2b They were promised help.
- 3a I was taught first aid by my grandmother.
  - 3b First aid was taught to me by my grandmother.
- 4a The president was sent an urgent message.
  - 4b An urgent message was sent to the president. *(important)*
- 5a A prize was given to Alicia Keys for her charity work.
  - 5b Alicia Keys was given a prize for her charity work.



**Prepositional phrases with verbs**

**1** Look at the verbs in these sentences. Which prepositions do they need?

- 1 Authorities were **waiting** for scientific assessment.
- 2 They **died** of gas poisoning.

**2** Complete the sentences with these prepositions.

about for of in on on on  
to to with

- 1 Residents **listened** to the experts.
- 2 Most people **agree** with the scientists' theory.
- 3 People used to **believe** in supernatural causes for natural disasters.
- 4 The strength of a volcano **depends** on different factors.
- 5 The experts **apologised** for not warning people about the possibilities of a tsunami.
- 6 You can **rely** on firefighters to help you in dangerous situations.
- 7 The residents **complained** about not being informed.
- 8 Nobody **dreamt** of something so big as a 20 metre wave.
- 9 Governments **spend** a lot of time and money on protecting the public from natural disasters.
- 10 Nobody knew who the dog **belonged** to.

**3** Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use a preposition.

- 1 I occasionally spend money ...
- 2 I hate waiting ...
- 3 One day I dream ...
- 4 I know I can rely ...
- 5 I never listen ...
- 6 Once I had to apologize ...
- 7 I nearly always agree ...
- 8 I don't usually complain ...
- 9 I believe ...

**4 SPEAKING** Work in small groups. Compare your sentences in 3. Tell the class any sentences you have in common.



**6** Rewrite these sentences using the passive. Use the person or people as the subject.

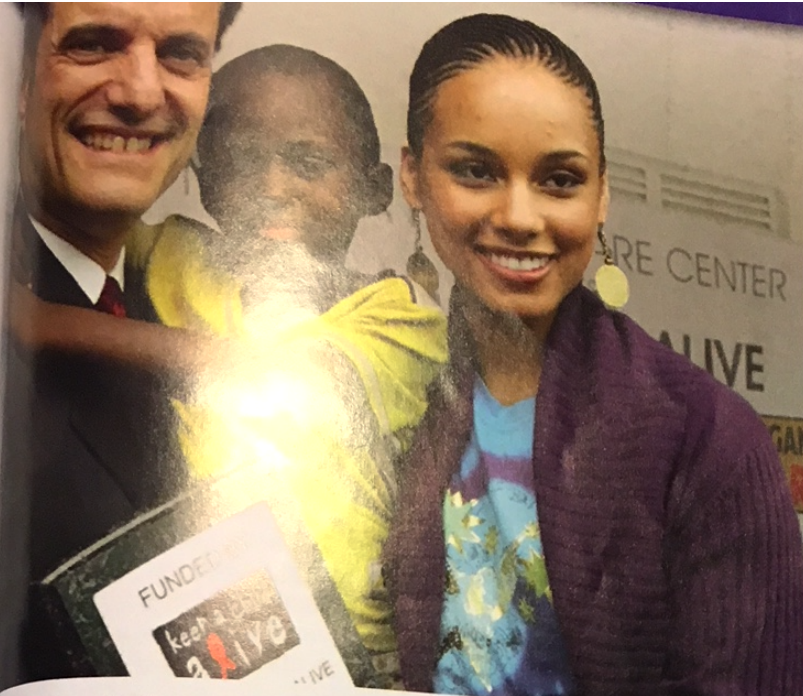
- 1 Many countries have given food and medicine to the people of Haiti. *The people of Haiti have been given food and medicine by many countries.*
- 2 They paid the actor a million dollars for his work on the film. *He was paid a million dollars for his work on the film.*
- 3 They're bringing the prime minister a glass of water. *He is being brought a glass of water.*
- 4 My parents have bought me a new mobile phone for my birthday. *I have been bought a new mobile phone by my parents.*
- 5 Perhaps they'll offer Lady Gaga a part in the new James Bond film. *She will be offered a part in the new James Bond film.*
- 6 They told me the news when I arrived. *I was told the news when I arrived.*
- 7 They are not going to refuse the refugees entrance into the country. *They are not going to be refused entrance into the country.*
- 8 The government have promised the scientists money for research. *The scientists have been promised money for research by the government.*

**7 SPEAKING** Find somebody in your class for each of the squares and write their name. Do not write the same person twice. Pay no attention to the Details section.

Find someone who has been ...	
<p><b>given a prize.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>	<p><b>given a special present.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>
<p><b>taught to do something by a member of their family.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>	<p><b>offered a job or a special responsibility.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>
<p><b>sent a parcel by post.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>	<p><b>told a secret.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>
<p><b>paid for doing something.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>	<p><b>owed money.</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Details: _____</p>

Ask questions to find out more details about each activity.

*Why were you given a prize?*  
*What were you paid for doing?*





## Grammar in context

### GRAMMAR GUIDE

#### The passive with say, know, believe, etc 1

1a Look at the sentences and answer the questions below.

- It was reported that very few animals actually died.
- It was said that the only dead animals were two or three water buffaloes.
- It is thought that animals have a 'sixth sense'.
- It is believed that animals are much more sensitive to vibrations.
- It has been claimed that humans used to possess a 'sixth sense'.

- What is the subject in the first part of these sentences? → *It*
- Why do we use the passive in the first part of these sentences? → *don't know who.*
- Why are different tenses used in the first part of the sentences? → *according to same rules as active!*

1b Here is a list of verbs which are frequently used in this way. Check their meaning in a dictionary if necessary.

believe claim expect know report  
say think

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2 Write complete sentences using the structures in 1.

- The sun goes round the earth' - past belief  
It was believed that the sun goes round the earth.
- 'The earth is flat' - past thought  
It was thought that
- 'Dolphins are the most intelligent mammals, after humans.' - present claim  
It is claimed that
- 'An asteroid will destroy the world one day!' - something people have said  
It has been said that
- 'Another big volcano is going to erupt in Iceland soon.' - present expectation  
It is expected that
- 'Volcanic ash can have a terrible effect on planes.' - present knowledge  
It is known that
- 'A ten-year-old girl saved more than 100 people in the 2004 tsunami.' - past report  
It was reported that
- 'Goldfish haven't got very good memories.' - something people say  
It is said that

### GRAMMAR GUIDE

#### The passive with say, know, believe, etc 2

3 Look at the sentences and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

- Flamingos are reported to have flown to higher ground.
- Some animals are known to hear things that humans cannot hear.
- They are believed to have a 'sixth sense'.
- The leopards were believed to have died but then they were found alive.

- In each sentence the subject of the first verb is also the subject of the second verb. *TF*
- After the verbs reported, known, believed, etc, we use to + infinitive to talk about things in the present, or things that are always true. *TF*
- After the verbs reported, known, believed, etc, we use to have + past participle to talk about past events. *TF*
- We use is/are believed/thought, etc, to talk about present beliefs and thoughts. *not only: are believed / died → past* *TF*
- We use was/were believed/thought, etc, to talk about past beliefs and thoughts. *TF*

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4 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- They say no monkeys died in the tsunami.  
No monkeys are said to have died
- They know that bees are very important for the environment.  
Bees are known to be
- People claim that global warming is responsible for many natural disasters.  
Global warming is claimed to be
- They reported that many people had gone missing after the eruption.  
Many people were reported to have gone missing
- People believed that the Titanic was unsinkable.  
The Titanic was believed to be
- People didn't know Everest was the highest mountain until 1852.  
Everest wasn't known to be
- It is said that Pompeii is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy.  
Pompeii is said to be
- It's believed that a meteorite caused the extinction of dinosaurs.  
A meteorite is thought to have caused



5 Complete the sentences in a logical way.

- People from my country are said ...
- English people are believed ...
- It's well known ...
- In the past, it was believed ...
- Last week in the news it was reported ...
- Students are expected ...
- Sometimes I'm known ...

6 SPEAKING Compare sentences with a partner. Do you agree with your partner's sentences?

### GRAMMAR GUIDE

#### Passive infinitives and gerunds

7 Look at these sentences and answer the questions below.

- People need to be warned about possible tsunamis.
- People don't like being evacuated from their homes.
- They were afraid of being pulled into the sea.
- They wanted to be informed about the situation.

- How do we make passive infinitives and gerunds? *verb "be" in respective form*
- Why do we need the passive infinitive in sentences a and d? *just like active!*
- Why do we need the passive gerund in sentences b and c? *just like active!*

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8 Choose the correct alternative.

- People read newspapers to be being informed about major events in the world.
- I hate to be being told to wait.
- She was afraid of be being left in the house alone.
- We used to be being given milk at school.
- I'm used to be being taught in English.
- Are you interested in be being sent publicity about our magazine?
- I'd like to be being seen on a TV programme.
- She expected to be being informed of any change in the situation.

9 Work with a partner and complete these sentences with passive infinitives or gerunds.

- One day we'd like ...
- We enjoy ...
- We're used to ...
- We're afraid of ...
- We used to be ...
- We hate ...



## The passive

1 Rewrite the sentences. Change the form from active to passive or passive to active.

- A boat rescued the boy and girl. *were rescued by a boat.*
- A Japanese company is going to rebuild the damaged towers. *are going to be rebuilt.*
- The airport had been designed by a famous architect. *had been designed.*
- The waves won't have destroyed the port. *won't have been destroyed by the waves.*
- Angelina Jolie is presenting the awards tonight. *are being presented.*
- They should have written a report about the catastrophe. *should have been written.*

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/6 points

## The passive – verbs with two objects

2 Put the words in the correct order. Then make the sentences active.

- will sent be an email You important  
*You will be sent an important email. We will send you an important email.*

- was a birthday camera given for I my  
*They gave me...*
- disasters They being shown a are about natural film  
*They are watching...*
- parents stories children Young often are told their by  
*Parents often tell...*
- has million been a actor dollars The paid  
*They have paid the young actor...*
- sister lent I by money was some my  
*My sister lent me...*

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/5 points

## The passive with say, know, believe, etc

3 Find the mistakes in these sentences and rewrite them correctly.

- It is often claimed Paris to be one of the most beautiful cities. *that is*
- Galileo Galilei is said to invent the telescope. *have invented*
- It was reported to have started the fire an accident. *been*
- Avalanches are said that they are caused by loud noises. *to be*
- A long time ago the moon is believed to be made of cheese. *was*

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/5 points

## Passive infinitives and gerunds

4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs given.

- That tennis player isn't very happy about *being interviewed* (be/interview).
- They asked *to be given* (be/give) another chance.
- I remember *being woken* (be/wake) up by a loud noise last night.
- They had hoped *to be found* (be/find) by the rescue team.

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/4 points