

## complex passive forms

### passive forms of gerunds, infinitives, and modal verbs

- 1 The prisoner is looking forward to **being let** out on parole.  
I resent **having been forced** to do sports at school.
  - 2 He's hoping **to be released** in the autumn.  
We would have liked **to have been informed** of the changes to our flight.
  - 3 Dogs must **be kept** on a leash at all times.  
The building work should **have been finished** by now.
- 1 The present form of the passive gerund is *being* + past participle, and the past form is *having been* + past participle.
  - 2 The present form of the passive infinitive is *to be* + past participle, and the past form is *to have been* + past participle.
  - 3 The passive structure after modal verbs is *be* + past participle, and the past form is *have been* + past participle.

### passive forms with prepositions

The children **were taken good care of** while their parents were away.  
I can't stand **being lied to**.  
This parcel **needs to be signed for**.  
The patient **should have been checked up on** every 30 minutes.

- In passive structures with prepositions, including multi-word verbs, we put the preposition(s) after the verb.

### passive forms with two objects

The letter was handed to **me** (by the postman).  
I was handed **the letter** (by the postman).

- When a verb has both a direct object and an indirect object, there are two possible passive forms:
  - the direct object (*the letter*) becomes the subject of the sentence, and the verb is followed by the indirect object (*me*) and sometimes *by* + the agent (*by the postman*).
  - the indirect object (*I*) becomes the subject, and the direct object (*the letter*) comes after the verb and sometimes before *by* + the agent (*by the postman*). This is the more common of the two structures.
- Common verbs used in this way are: *ask, bring, give, hand, lend, offer, owe, pay, send, show, teach, and tell*.

### get with passive forms

- 1 The playground **got (was) vandalized** last night.  
I **got (was) stopped** by the police for using my phone while I was driving.  
Ben **is always getting (being) told off** by his teacher.  
The recycling bins **get (are) emptied** every Tuesday.
  - 2 We were playing football and a window **got broken**.  
I'm afraid the computer screen **has got a bit scratched**.
  - 3 How often **do you get (have) your hair cut**?  
I **got (had) the car checked over** by a mechanic before I bought it.
- 1 We can use *get* instead of *be* in passive forms, in informal style and spoken language. We use it most commonly for things which are unplanned or unexpected, or for things which are habitual or part of a routine.

- We don't use *get* for planned actions, e.g. *A library and another laboratory will be built over the next two years*. **NOT** *A library and another laboratory will get built...*
- 2 *get* can also suggest that someone is trying to avoid being blamed for something.
- 3 We can also use *get* instead of *have* in *have* + object + past participle to describe something that we ask another person to do for us, usually for payment.
- We normally use *have*, rather than *get*, when we use this structure, to talk about something bad happening to a person, especially when it was not their fault, e.g. *She had her wallet stolen while she was on holiday. Any students bringing mobile phones to school will have them confiscated*.

### passives in reporting structures

- 1 **It is hoped that** the judge will make an announcement shortly.  
**It is known that** humans are innately capable of learning a language.  
**It has been reported that** the first human cloning has been carried out.
- 2 The thief **is thought to be hiding** in London.  
The result **is expected to be announced** at the end of the day.  
The Incas **are believed to have practised** human sacrifice.  
The leader of the protest **is rumoured to have been arrested**.  
People **are supposed to be given** at least a month's notice for jury service.
- 3 **I was asked to wait** here until the doctor could see me.  
**We've been told to expect** more information about the flight in 30 minutes.  
**All guests are requested to leave** their valuables in the safe.

- To express a fact impersonally, we can use the passive form of verbs like *say, think*, etc. to introduce them.

- 1 We can use *It* + passive verb + *that* + clause.
  - 2 We can use subject + passive verb + *to* + an infinitive form.
- Verbs commonly used with pattern 1 or pattern 2 above are: *accept, agree, allege, announce, assume, believe, claim, consider, estimate, expect, fear, feel, find, know, prove, report, rumour, say, show, state, think, and understand*.
  - *hope, suggest, and recommend* are only normally used with *it*.
  - *suppose* is only used with *to* + infinitive. **NOT** *It is supposed that...*
- 3 We often use a passive verb + *to* + infinitive when we are reporting orders, requests, and permission. Verbs commonly used in this way are: *advise, allow, ask, persuade, remind, request, tell, urge, and warn*.

### consider, regard, think of, deem

With these verbs, we can also use the following passive reporting structures:

*He is considered (to be) trustworthy.*  
*He is regarded as (being) the inventor of the computer.*  
*She was thought of as (being) the best candidate.*  
*She was deemed (to be) a genius by her peers.*