

A

**Active patterns with verb + -ing**Verbs followed by **object + -ing** in the active are made passive with 'be' + **past participle + -ing**:

- They **saw the monkey climbing** over the fence. (= active)
- The monkey **was seen climbing** over the fence. (= passive)

*Also: bring, catch, hear, find, keep, notice, observe, send, show*

B

Some verbs that can be followed by an **-ing** form can be used with a passive form **being + past participle**:

- I really **love being given** presents.
- The children **enjoyed being taken** to the zoo.

*Also: avoid, deny, describe, dislike, face, hate, (not) imagine, like, remember, report, resent*

C

Verbs which in the active are followed by an object consisting of a noun phrase and **-ing** clause usually have no passive:

- I dread **him (or his) finding out**.  
(*but not* He is dreaded finding out)

*Also: anticipate, appreciate, dislike, forget, hate, imagine, like, (not) mind, recall, remember*

D

**Active patterns with verb + to-infinitive**The active pattern **verb + object + to-infinitive** is made passive with 'be' + **past participle + to-infinitive**. Compare:

- Mr Wang **has taught Peter to sing** for years. *and*
- Peter **has been taught to sing** (by Mr Wang) for years.

*Also: advise, allow, ask, believe, consider, expect, feel, instruct, mean, order, require, tell, understand*

Note that in some contexts it is possible to make both verbs passive:

- Changes to the taxation system **are expected to be proposed**. (*compare the active* We **expect** the government **to propose** changes to the taxation system.)

Some verbs followed by an **object + to-infinitive** in the active have no passive:

- Susan **liked Karl to be** there. (*but not* Karl was liked to be there.)

*Also: (can't) bear, hate, love, need, prefer, want, wish (= 'liking' and 'wanting' verbs)*

E

The active pattern **verb + to-infinitive + object** is made passive with **verb + to be + past participle**. Compare:

- Supermarkets **started to sell fresh pasta** only in the 1990s. *and*
- Fresh pasta started to be sold** by supermarkets only in the 1990s.

*Also: (i) appear, begin, come, continue, seem, tend;  
(ii) agree, aim, arrange, attempt, hope, refuse, want*

The verbs in group (i) (and **start**) have corresponding meanings in active and passive sentences, but the verbs in group (ii) do not. Compare:

- People have come to see organic food as something only the wealthy eat. (active) *corresponds to*
- Organic food has come to be seen as something only the wealthy eat. (passive)
- Petra wanted to help me. (active) *does not correspond to*
- I wanted to be helped by Petra. (passive)

# Exercises

**23.1** Complete each sentence using one pair of verbs from the box. Use either **was / were + past participle + -ing** or **past simple + being + past participle**. **A & B**

avoid – take    deny – involve    face – expel    find – wander    ~~keep – wait~~  
leave – hold    observe – hide    remember – bite    resent – give    send – tumble

- Inger was kept waiting for over three hours when she went for her dental appointment.
- When the police first questioned him, Wayne ..... in the robbery.
- I ..... the baby while Karen went to answer the door.
- When I woke up in hospital, I ..... by the snake but nothing after that.
- They ..... prisoner by pretending to be dead.
- The man ..... a suspicious package under a seat in the train.
- When the bike hit her, Ana ..... to the ground.
- Two teenagers yesterday ..... from school after they were found with over a hundred stolen mobile phones.
- The man was taken to hospital when he ..... lost and alone in the forest.
- Tarik had worked in the company for 30 years and he rather ..... orders by people who had been there only weeks.

**23.2** Rewrite the sentences using one pair of words from the box. Use passive forms with **past participle + -ing**, **past participle + to-infinitive**, or **past simple + being + past participle**. **A-D**

~~ask – show~~    catch – shoplifting    expect – attract    hear – argue  
hate – tease    mind – criticise    observe – enter    require – complete

- They wanted us to show our passports at the border.  
We were asked to show our passports at the border.
- They could hear Emil and Laura shouting at each other next door.  
*Emil and Laura* .....
- The other children made Ollie unhappy when they teased him.  
*Ollie* .....
- They saw the burglar getting into the museum through a window.  
*The burglar* .....
- They think that over 20,000 people will go to the pop concert.  
*The pop concert* .....
- They criticised her but she wasn't unhappy about it.  
*She* .....
- They said I had to fill in two copies of the customs declaration.  
*I* .....
- They caught Mrs Dee taking things from the shop.  
*Mrs Dee* .....

**23.3** Make passive sentences beginning with the italicised word(s). **E**

- Kay's questions began to irritate *Marco*.  
Marco began to be irritated by Kay's questions. (corresponding meaning)
- The team captain hopes to select *Omar*.
- Alastair arranged to take *Kathy* to the station.
- Critics have come to recognise *Galdos* as one of Spain's greatest novelists.
- The south coast continues to attract *holidaymakers*.
- Harris has agreed to interview *the Finance Minister*.

Do the sentences you have written have a corresponding meaning to the original, or a different meaning? Look carefully at the tense in the sentences given.