

7.2 The Passive

We use the Passive when the action is more important than the person who performs it. If we want to add information about the person (the agent), we use the word **by**.

*This shopping mall **is visited by** about 50,000 people every day.*

*How many languages **are spoken** in the USA?*

We form the Passive for different tenses with the correct form of **be** and the Past Participle. In modal clauses, we use a modal verb before **be**.

*Designer clothes **can be found** in high street shops.*

Present Simple Passive	<i>Tea is grown in India. Cars are not repaired here. Where are the tickets sold?</i>
Past Simple Passive	<i>I was offered a job. These tablets were not produced in China. Where was our car made?</i>
Present Perfect Passive	<i>The house in Green Street has been sold. We have not been informed about the change. Has he been invited to Emma's wedding?</i>
Modal verbs	<i>Conditions must be improved. Parcels can be sent at the post office. Do the rooms need to be cleaned every day?</i>

1 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- 1 be / music / iTunes store / downloaded / from / can / the

- 2 organically / plants / farm / on / are / our / grown

- 3 uniforms / are / by / England / all schoolchildren / worn / in ?

- 4 have / since 1988 / been / these shoes / produced

- 5 son / month / is / given / presents / their / every

2 Choose the correct option.

- 1 Movie stars *pay* / *are paid* a lot of money to advertise products.
- 2 The factory *mustn't sell* / *mustn't be sold* to an American company because people will lose their jobs.
- 3 Francis *taught* / *was taught* English in Thailand for two years and he really loved the job.
- 4 The play *has performed* / *has been performed* in over 200 theatres worldwide.
- 5 Fairtrade food *has produced* / *has been produced* for many years now in developing countries.
- 6 The musicians *gave* / *were given* their money from the concert to charity.
- 7 England's prestige football matches *played* / *have been played* at Wembley since 1923.
- 8 Jenny *surprised* / *was surprised* I bought her some flowers.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first. Use the passive.

- 1 We must protect the environment.
The environment _____.
- 2 Department stores sell many different things.
Many different things _____ in department stores.
- 3 These days, you can do all your shopping online.
These days, all your shopping _____.
- 4 You mustn't eat food in the clothes shop.
Food _____ in the clothes shop.
- 5 Martin didn't set up the company.
The company _____ Martin.
- 6 Does your aunt own that shop?
_____ your aunt?
- 7 We can't refund your money.
Your money _____.
- 8 They don't make these shoes in England.
These shoes _____ in England.

4 Complete the text with the correct form (active or passive) of the verbs in brackets.

Post offices ¹ _____ (use) to deliver letters and packages for over 300 years. In fact, the term 'post office' ² _____ (exist) even in the 1650s in the UK. Early mail ³ _____ (deliver) on horses, and 'post houses' ⁴ _____ (build) every few miles between major cities. Here, postmen could feed their horses and rest for a while. These post houses, or 'post stations' in the US, ⁵ _____ (disappear) when trains and trucks ⁶ _____ (become) a more popular way of transporting mail.

Today, post offices are very different. Of course, they still ⁷ _____ (send) our mail. But other services like banking ⁸ _____ (offer) there too. Since the invention of the Internet, however, the post office has become less important in our lives and, because of modern technology, the transfer of information is now quicker and cheaper than ever before.

5 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 My car has stolen from the shopping centre car park.
- 2 Was that email send this morning?
- 3 Is it true that Aston Martin cars made by hand?
- 4 We have repaired your computer and it can collect this afternoon.
- 5 The new greengrocer's on the corner run by my mum.
- 6 Some great clothes can find at vintage shops.
- 7 The book I ordered online wasn't delivered yet.
- 8 Did you give a refund by the shop manager?