

0.8 USA vs UK

Grammar: The Passive • *have something done*

Vocabulary: Politics • Society

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

- 1 Complete the table. Put words and phrases with similar meanings side by side under *The USA* or *The UK*.

Congress Conservatives 50 States Pound
Constitutional Monarchy 98 Counties Dollar
Democrats Houses of Parliament Labour
President Prime Minister Republic Republicans

The USA	The UK	Your country
Congress	Houses of Parliament	

- 2 Add equivalent words to describe the institutions in your country. Then, in pairs, discuss similarities and differences between all three countries.

- 3 Read the quiz and choose the correct options.



- This country *hasn't been / hasn't* invaded since 1066, when King Harold *was / has* defeated by William the Conqueror.
- Until 1913 it was legal to *have / be* children sent to other parts of this country by parcel post.
- One in eight workers in this country *has had / has been* employed by McDonald's at one time or another.
- Eighty percent of everything on sale in this country *is / has* bought by women.
- When Abraham Lincoln became President of this country in 1861, slaves *were still being / had still* imported from Africa. During his presidency, Lincoln *had / was* slavery abolished.
- In 1918 women over thirty *were / have* allowed to vote in elections in this country. Women over twenty-one *weren't / haven't* allowed to vote until 1928.
- Eight billion chickens *are / have* consumed in this country each year.
- This country's king, Henry VIII, *had been / had had* married six times and *had been / had* two of his wives executed by the time he died in 1547.

- 4 **CD•1.8 MP3•8** Replace *this country* with *the USA* or *the UK* in Exercise 3. Then listen and check. Which facts did you find surprising?

- 5 Read **REMEMBER THIS**. Then complete the cartoon caption with the correct auxiliary verbs.

REMEMBER THIS

- The Passive** = it isn't important or you don't know who performed an action
- Passive sentence + by + agent** = a way to mention who (or what) performed an action
- have something done** = you don't perform an action yourself (somebody does it for you)



American: I love your royal family, especially William and Kate. Their wedding in 2011 ¹ _____ shown by the biggest American TV stations. I ² _____ my hair done like Kate's for the occasion! Do you think George ³ _____ be crowned King one day?

Brit: Um, maybe, but he's just a child now, so he's only interested in ⁴ _____ his meals served and the TV tuned into his favourite cartoons.

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- 6 Read some more trivia facts about the USA and the UK. Rewrite the sentences in the passive, using *by + agent* only if it is necessary.
- Most people think that Christopher Columbus discovered America.
Most people think that America was discovered by Christopher Columbus.
 - Every year in the USA judges sentence around 100 criminals to death.
 - In 1811 in Britain, parents named nearly a quarter of all girls Mary.
 - People in the UK drink more tea than in any other country.
 - French people built the Statue of Liberty in France.
- 7 Use the prompts to write questions with *have something done*. Then, in pairs, ask and answer the questions.
- have you ever / repair / a bicycle?
 - when did you last / test / your eyes?
 - will you ever / colour / your hair?
 - are you going to / redecorate / your bedroom?
 - have you / pierce / your ears?
 - when did you last / take / a passport photo?