

0.8 The Passive; have something done

The Passive

- We use the Passive when we are more interested in the action itself than the person (the agent) performing it:
*The presidential election **will be held** in July.*
- If we want to say who performed the action, we use the word **by**:
*The telephone **was invented** in 1876 **by** Alexander Graham Bell.*
- We form the Passive with an appropriate form of the verb to be and the past participle of the main verb.

Present Simple	Coffee is grown and exported by over fifty developing countries.
Present Continuous	The report is still being examined .
Past Simple	When was the Willis Tower built ?
Past Continuous	At 11 p.m. the suspect was still being questioned .
Present Perfect	A new community centre has just been opened in my town.
Past Perfect	I found out that my application had been accepted .
will	Over 1,000 companies will be affected by the new regulations.

have something done

We use *have* + object + past participle to talk about actions that someone else (typically an expert or a contractor) does at our request. Compare the two sentences:

*After the burglary the Jacksons **changed** their locks.* (They did it themselves.)

*After the burglary the Jacksons **had their locks changed**.* (They hired a locksmith to do it.)

Present Simple	We have the office cleaned twice a week.
Present Continuous	Why are you having your windows replaced ?
Past Simple	We had all the installations checked .
Past Continuous	Last year in June my neighbours were having their house painted .
Present Perfect	Have you ever had your nails done ?
will	When will you have your tyres changed ?
be going to	I'm going to have a burglar alarm installed .

We can usually replace the verb *have* with the verb *get*:

We **had** the documents translated. =

We **got** the documents translated.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Use the Passive or *have something done*.

- He _____ (stop) by the police and _____ (ask) for his ID.
- I think everybody – both road-users and pedestrians – _____ (affect) by the introduction of self-driving cars in the near future.
- Where _____ (you/your laptop/repair) last month? I think mine's broken now.
- Smoking in public places _____ (ban) for several years now.
- Actually, I _____ (never/my photo/take) by a professional photographer.
- More drivers _____ (fine) for speeding than for drink-driving.
- An increasing number of teenagers _____ (teach) how to cook by their parents nowadays.