

Depending on what we want to emphasise, we can begin with either the direct or the indirect object:

A pay rise was promised to John by the general manager.
(indirect object becomes the subject, with emphasis on a pay rise)

John was promised a pay rise by the general manager.
(direct object becomes the subject, with emphasis on John)

A bunch of flowers was given to the teacher by the pupils.
(indirect object becomes the subject, with emphasis on a bunch of flowers)

The teacher was given a bunch of flowers by the pupils.
(direct object becomes the subject, with emphasis on the teacher)

Passive infinitive and -ing forms

- After verbs and phrases followed by an -ing form (e.g. be interested in, can't stand, don't mind, enjoy, get tired of, hate, like/dislike, love, miss) we form the passive -ing form with being + past participle:
My teacher **doesn't mind being asked** millions of questions.
I **got tired of being criticised** for my ideas.
- After verbs and phrases followed by a to-infinitive (e.g. can't afford, choose, decide, hope, need, prefer, pretend, refuse, want, would like) we form the passive infinitive with to be + past participle:
Millions of people **hope to be cured** of the disease.
At some point your son will **need to be told** the truth.

The Passive of make sb do sth

In the Passive we use the to-infinitive after make:

My mum **made me clean** my room. (Active)

I **was made to clean** my room (by my mum). (Passive)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word in capitals. Do not change the word in capitals.

- It's a bad idea not to address all the issues. **OUGHT**
All the issues _____ addressed.
- Everybody could hear the music despite my closing the windows. **COULD**
The music _____ despite my closing the windows.
- She had shown me the password the previous day. **HAD**
I _____ the previous day.
- They said that I mustn't surf the Internet. **TOLD**
I _____ surf the Internet.
- I don't like it when someone orders me around. **BEING**
I _____ around.
- The babysitter made the children go to bed early. **MADE**
The children _____ bed early by the babysitter.
- I'm sure somebody stole my sunglasses. **MUST**
My glasses _____.

7.5 Passive reporting structures

Impersonal passive structures

To talk about general opinions and views, we use verbs such as agree, believe, claim, consider, expect, feel, hope, know, report, say, think, understand, etc. and the following structures:

- it + passive verb (present or past) + that:
People generally **claim that** optimists live longer. →
It is generally claimed that optimists live longer.
People **believed that** mathematics was the link between God and the world. →
It was believed that mathematics was the link between God and the world.
- subject + passive verb (present or past) + to-infinitive:
People **consider** wearable technology **to be** the future of computing. →
Wearable technology is considered to be the future of computing.
People **know that** almonds protect against diabetes and high blood pressure. →
Almonds are known to protect against diabetes and high blood pressure.
- subject + passive verb (present or past) + to have + past participle:
People **believe that** the earthquake **has killed** more than 1,000 people. →
The earthquake is believed to have killed more than 1,000 people.
The press **previously reported that** the company's profit **had reached** £100 million. →
The company's profit was previously reported to have reached £100 million.
- there + passive verb (present or past) + to be:
People **expect that** there **will be** a rise in the number of jobs offered across the UK. →
There is expected to be a rise in the number of jobs offered across the UK.
- there + passive verb (present or past) + to have been
People **think that** there **were** over twenty inventors who **invented** various light sources before Edison. →
There are thought to have been over twenty inventors who **invented** various light sources before Edison.