

ACTIVE OR PASSIVE



DIFFERENT TENSES

- **The house is built.**
- **The house is being built.**
- **The house was built.**
- **The houses were being built.**
- **The houses have been built.**
- **The houses will be built.**
- **The house is going to be built.**



Different expressions to describe an inactive approach:

- He is a couch potato / lazy bum.
- At his age he can afford taking things as they come.
- She is bone idle.
- Idle people have the least leisure.
- All those do-nothings / lazybones / idlers / loafers - someone loaths them, someone admires them.
- Our government prefers a hands-off foreign policy.



In grammar there is a difference between

ACTIVE:

Yesterday some southern rednecks lynched a whole black family.

and **PASSIVE** voice:

Yesterday a whole black family was lynched (by some southern rednecks).

Using **passive voice** - **the outcome** is more important than the subject:

A polar bear has killed and devoured a little boy in the zoo.

A little boy has been killed and devoured (by a polar bear).



- People did not hear the bomb. Did the bomb injure many people?
- They are repairing my car today, I hope.
- You have been investing a lot of cash into this, haven't you?
- Go and see the film, it will meet your expectations.



Two objects in a sentence - two possibilities to make it passive:

- They sent a telegram (direct object) to the winner (indirect object).
- A telegram was sent to the winner.

OR

- The winner was sent a telegram.



- They have promised workers better conditions.





“GET” instead of “be” used in spoken English to indicate something happened by chance and in idiomatic expressions like get dressed, get washed, get married:

- Lots of people get injured in their homes.
- The cake got burnt in the oven.
- How did this clock get broken?
- I had to get dressed in the dark.
- Without the map we soon got lost.
- When did they get married?



LINKS

- <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/passive-exercises.html>
- <https://www.helpforenglish.cz/gramatika/slovesa/trpny-rod>
- <https://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2015012701-the-passive-test>