

# **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>