

	Active	Passive
Present Simple	<i>He designs costumes.</i>	<i>Costumes are designed.</i>
Present Continuous	<i>He is designing the costumes.</i>	<i>The costumes are being designed.</i>
Past Simple	<i>He designed the costumes.</i>	<i>The costumes were designed.</i>
Present Perfect	<i>He has designed the costumes.</i>	<i>The costumes have been designed.</i>
Future Simple	<i>He will design the costumes.</i>	<i>The costumes will be designed.</i>
Modals	<i>He must design the costumes.</i>	<i>The costumes must be designed.</i>

form: to be + past participle

Changing from Active into Passive

To change a sentence from the active into the passive:

- The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
- The active verb remains in the same tense but changes into a passive form.
- The subject of the active sentence becomes the agent and is either introduced with 'by' or is omitted if it is not a specific person or it is not essential to the meaning of the sentence.

Use

- We use the passive: to give emphasis to the action rather than the person who did it. *The new theatre will be opened tomorrow by the Mayor.*
- When the person who does the action is unknown, unimportant or obvious from the context. *BWM cars are made in Germany.*

Cats is famous for being the longest running show in Broadway history.

It is based on T.S. Eliot's work *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, a small collection of poems for children.

The story is about a group of cats, known as the Jellicle Tribe, who live in a junkyard and gather for an annual Jellicle Ball. At the end of each Jellicle Ball, one cat is chosen to ascend to the Heaviside Layer, a sort of cat equivalent of heaven. *Cats* has been translated into more than 20 languages. It has also been shown in more than 30 countries and seen by more than 50 million people round the world!

One of the things that makes *Cats* so popular is its amazing costumes. They were designed by John Napier who won a Tony Award for Best Costume Design in 1983. Actors in the show look like real cats, as they dance, sing and act in heavy fur and headpieces with ears and whiskers. Every cat in the show has its own costume and its own make-up which helps to project their personality.

Napier will always be remembered for the costumes that made *Cats* an icon of musical theatre. *Cats* must be seen by everyone.

2

Read the article and list all the passive forms. What tense is each?

► *is based* – Present Simple



Active Voice

Lyn made the costumes.
subject predicate object

Passive Voice

The costumes were made by Lyn.
subject predicate agent

b Write passive sentences, as in the example.
What is the tense in each sentence?

1 Alexander Byrne created the *Phantom of the Opera* costumes.

► *The Phantom of the Opera costumes were created by Alexander Byrne.*

2 The company employs three hundred people.

3 B & K have built a new cinema complex near the airport.

4 John wrote the essay.

5 The Mayor will open the new theatre this Sunday.

4

Read the theory box and complete the sentences with *by* or *with*.

by + agent (person) Penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming.

with + instrument/ingredient This sauce is made with fresh peppers. BUT: We don't use the agent when it is unimportant or obvious from the text. *Cars are made in Germany.* (obvious)

- 1 The walls are covered posters.
- 2 A new book will be published Express Ltd next May.
- 3 The dress was designed Calvin Klein.
- 4 Wood is cut a saw.
- 5 The film was produced Martin Scorsese.

5

Rewrite the sentences in the passive. Mind the tenses. Omit the agent where necessary.

- 1 They will open the opera house next week.
- 2 They didn't invite him to the party.
- 3 The chef is preparing the food.
- 4 Donna Karan designed the costumes.
- 5 The editor hasn't checked the article yet.

- 6** Read the theory box. Then write two passive sentences for each of the following statements.

With verbs which take two objects such as *bring*, *send*, *give*, *offer* etc we can have two different passive sentences depending on where emphasis is given.

He gave us two tickets. (Active voice)

We were given two tickets. Two tickets were given to us. (Passive voice)

- 1 John gave me a ticket for the rock concert.
▶ *I was given a ticket for the rock concert by John.*
A ticket for the rock concert was given to me by John.
- 2 Robert will bring the children some DVDs.
- 3 The film producer has offered the costume designer a job.
- 4 The director sent Laura an email.

7 a Read the examples. Rewrite the following questions in the passive voice.

Who invented the camera? (Active Voice)

Who was the camera invented by? (Passive Voice)

Have they found the missing girl? (Active Voice)

Has the missing girl been found? (Passive Voice)

- 1 Where did they buy the tickets?
▶ *Where were the tickets bought?*
- 2 When will they stage the show?
- 3 Had they prepared the costumes before the director arrived?
- 4 Did they translate the play?
- 5 Did Andrew Lloyd Webber write the music?
- 6 Will Steven Spielberg direct this film?
- 7 Who designed the first pair of jeans?
- 8 What caused the fire?
- 9 Who invented the television?
- 10 What do you use silver for?

8

Write passive sentences.

1 A: That's a beautiful painting.

B: Yes. (It/paint/Pablo Picasso)

► *It was painted by Pablo Picasso.*

2 A: Can I take a photograph?

B: I'm afraid (cameras/not allow) in the museum.

3 A: The room is a mess.

B: I know. (It/not clean/for days)

4 A: Can I borrow your car tonight?

B: I'm afraid you can't. (It/not repair/yet)

5 A: Has the parcel arrived?

B: No. (It/deliver/tomorrow)