

Passive Voice

We form the passive with the verb **to be** and the **past participle** of the main verb.

to be + past participle (pp)

◆ The passive forms are:

present simple: **am/is/are + pp**

My car is serviced twice a year.

present continuous: **am/is/are being + pp**

My car is being serviced now.

past simple: **was/were + pp**

My car was serviced last month.

past continuous: **was/were being + pp**

My car was being serviced when I went to the garage.

present perfect simple: **have/has been + pp**

My car has already been serviced.

past perfect simple: **had been + pp**

My car had been serviced by two o'clock.

future simple: **will be + pp**

My car will be serviced tomorrow.

future perfect simple: **will have been + pp**

My car will have been serviced by Monday.

present infinitive: **(to) be + pp**

My car needs to be serviced soon.

perfect infinitive: **(to) have been + pp**

My car should have been serviced last month.

-ing form: **being + pp**

I insist on my car being serviced today.

modals: **modal + be + pp**

My car must be serviced before the trip.

Passive Voice

The verbs *think, believe, say, report, know, expect, consider, understand, etc.* are used in the following passive patterns in personal and impersonal constructions.

active: *People say that he has lost his job.*

passive: a) *It is said (that) he has lost his job.*
(impersonal construction)

b) *He is said to have lost his job.* (personal construction)

active: *People know that she works hard.*

passive: c) *It is known (that) she works hard.*

d) *She is known to work hard.*

active: *People think he left the country last night.*

passive: e) *It is thought (that) he left the country last night.*

f) *He is thought to have left the country last night.*

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f) *He is thought to have left the country last night.*

Conditionals

	If-clause (hypothesis)	Main clause (result)	Use
Type 0 general truth	if + present simple	present simple	
	<i>If the temperature falls below 0°C, water turns into ice.</i>		
Type 1 real present	if + present simple, present continuous, present perfect or present perfect continuous	future/imperative can/may/might/must/should/ could + bare infinitive	real - likely to happen in the present or future
	<i>If he doesn't pay the fine, he will go to prison. If you have finished your work, we can have a break.</i> <i>If you need help, come and see me. If you're ever in the area, you should come and visit us.</i>		
Type 2 unreal present	if + past simple or past continuous	would/could/might + bare infinitive	imaginary situation contrary to facts in the present; also used to give advice
	<i>If I had time, I would take up a sport. (but I don't have time - untrue in the present)</i> <i>If I were you, I would talk to my parents about it. (giving advice)</i>		
Type 3 unreal past	if + past perfect or past perfect continuous	would/could/might + have + past participle	imaginary situation contrary to facts in the past; also used to express regrets or criticism
	<i>If she had studied harder, she would have passed the test.</i> <i>If he hadn't been acting so foolishly, he wouldn't have been punished.</i>		

I wish / If only....

We use the verb **wish** and the expression **if only** to express a wish. If only is more emphatic than I wish.

- ◆ **wish/if only + past simple/past continuous**: when we want to say that we would like something to be different in the **present**.

e.g. *I wish/If only I had a room of my own. (But I don't have a room of my own.)*

- ◆ **wish/if only + past perfect**: to express regret that something happened or did not happen in the **past**.

e.g. *I wish I had got your message earlier. (But I didn't get it earlier.)*

If only I had talked to him. (But I didn't talk to him.)

- ◆ **wish/if only + would**: a) for a polite imperative e.g. *I wish you would stop shouting. (Please, stop shouting.)*
b) to express our wish for a change in a situation or someone's behaviour because we are annoyed by it.

e.g. *I wish the wind would stop blowing. (wish for a change in a situation)*

If only John would stop insulting people. (wish for a change in someone's behaviour)

- ◆ After the subject pronouns **I** and **we**, we use **could** instead of would.

e.g. *I wish we could go to the party. (NOT: ~~I wish we would go...~~)*

Note: We can use **were** instead of was after wish or if only.

e.g. *I wish she were/was more sensitive.*