

● grammar summary

When A does something to B, there are often two ways to talk about it: 'active' and 'passive'.

- We use **active** verbs if we want A to be the **subject**.

Mrs Harris cooks our meals. Andrew broke the window.

- We use **passive** verbs if we want B to be the **subject**.

Our meals are cooked by Mrs Harris. The window was broken by Andrew.

We make **passive verbs** with *be* (*am, are, is* etc) + **past participle** (*cooked, broken* etc).

Passive verbs have the **same tenses** (simple present, present progressive, present perfect etc) as **active verbs**.

For a list of active and passive tenses, see page 276.

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 283.

1 Correct (✓) or not (x)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▷ English is spoken in New Zealand. ✓ | 5 Our car has been stolen. ... |
| ▷ I born in Manchester. ✗ | 6 When is that window broken? ... |
| 1 I was studied German for three years. ... | 7 This book was written from my father. ... |
| 2 Ann invited to a party by her boss. ... | 8 I was given your name by a friend of mine. ... |
| 3 How is written your name? ... | 9 The new road will finished in July. ... |
| 4 'Where's your coat?' 'It's being cleaned.' ... | |

2 Circle the best way to continue.

- 1 She lives in an old house. A Somebody built it in 1730. B It was built in 1730.
- 2 My friend Andrew takes photographs of animals and birds.
A He sells them for a lot of money. B They are sold by him for a lot of money.

DO YOU KNOW? (Answers at the bottom of the page)

- 1 Which of these is used to boil water?
A a fridge B a sink C a kettle D a hot water bottle
- 2 Which US President was killed in a theatre?
A Lincoln B Kennedy C Eisenhower D Nixon
- 3 Which game is played with a racket?
A golf B cricket C football D tennis
- 4 If you are being served, where are you?
A in a shop B in a church C in the sea D in hospital
- 5 The Olympic Games have never been held in:
A Melbourne B Tokyo C London D Chicago
- 6 Which of these metals was discovered by Marie Curie?
A uranium B radium C gold D platinum
- 7 Which of these was not written by Shakespeare?
A Hamlet B The Sound of Music C Othello D Julius Caesar
- 8 Which country was governed by the Pharaohs?
A Sweden B China C Egypt D Japan

Answers: 1C, 2A, 3D, 4A, 5D, 6B, 7B, 8C

passives: introduction *English is spoken in Australia.*

When A does something to B, there are often two ways to talk about it: 'active' and 'passive'.

We use active verbs if we want A to be the **subject**.

We use passive verbs if we want B to be the **subject**.

We make passive verbs with *be* (*am, are, is* etc) + past participle (*cooked, seen* etc).



ACTIVE			PASSIVE		
A		B	B		(A)
Mrs Harris	cooks	our meals.	Our meals	are cooked	by Mrs Harris.
Somebody	saw	her in Belfast.	She	was seen	in Belfast.
The government	will close	the hospital next year.	The hospital	will be closed	next year.

Passive verbs have the **same tenses** (simple present, present progressive, present perfect etc) as active verbs. For a list of active and passive tenses, see page 276.

1 Which picture goes with which sentence?

► The policeman helped the old lady. ...

1 The policeman was helped by the old lady. ...

2 The car hit a tree. ...

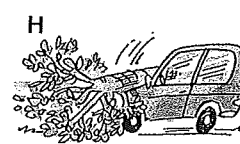
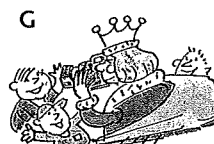
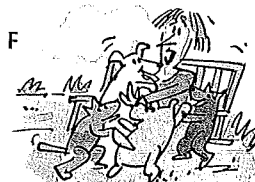
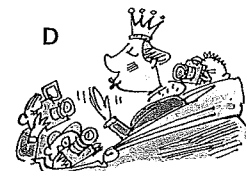
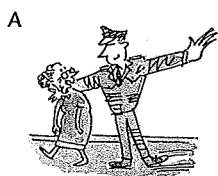
3 The car was hit by a tree. ...

4 Annie loves all dogs. ...

5 Annie is loved by all dogs. ...

6 The Queen photographed the tourists. ...

7 The Queen was photographed by the tourists. ...



2 Circle the correct answer.

1 English *speaks / spoken / is spoken* in Australia.

2 I *studied / was studied* French for three years at school.

3 We *spent / was spent* too much money on holiday.

4 This window *broke / was broken* by your little boy.

5 Her clothes *made / are made* in Paris.

6 This book *written / was written* by my brother.




7 The new university *will open / will opened / will be opened* by the Prime Minister.

8 Ann *was driving / was driven* much too fast, and she *stopped / was stopped* by the police.

Sometimes we make passives with *get* instead of *be*, especially in spoken English.

I get paid on Fridays. My window got broken by the wind.

simple present passive *We are woken by the birds.*

	<i>I am woken</i>	<i>you are woken</i>	<i>he/she/it is woken</i> etc
	<i>am I woken?</i>	<i>are you woken?</i>	<i>is he/she/it woken?</i> etc
	<i>I am not woken</i>	<i>you are not woken</i>	<i>he/she/it is not woken</i> etc
For contractions (<i>I'm, isn't</i> etc), see pages 2, 277.			

We use the **simple present passive** like the simple present active, for things that are **always true**, and things that happen **all the time, repeatedly, often, sometimes, never** etc (see page 15).

I am paid every two weeks. Is Jeremy liked by the other children? Stamps aren't sold here.

→ For spelling rules for adding *-ed* to verbs, see page 42; for irregular past participles, see page 275.

1 Complete the sentences with *am/are/is*.

- ▶ A lot of paper *is* made from wood.
- 1 What this called in English?
 - 2 I paid on the first of every month.
 - 3 Jane often sent to the Singapore office.
 - 4 any classes taught on Wednesdays?
 - 5 More chocolate eaten in the US than in any other country.
 - 6 Not very much known about Shakespeare's childhood.
 - 7 We woken by the birds every morning.
 - 8 you seen by the same doctor every week?

2 Put simple present passive verbs into these sentences.

- ▶ A lot of olive oil *is used* in Greek cooking. (*use*)
- 1 Arabic from right to left. (*write*)
 - 2 Those programmes by millions of people every week. (*watch*)
 - 3 Stamps in most newsagents in Britain. (*sell*)
 - 4 The police say that nothing about the child's family. (*know*)
 - 5 In English, 'ough' in a lot of different ways. (*pronounce*)
 - 6 Spanish in Peru. (*speak*)
 - 7 Cricket by two teams of eleven players. (*play*)
 - 8 Our windows once a month. (*clean*)

3 Make simple present negatives and questions.

- ▶ 'Jaguar cars *are not made* in America.' (*not make*)
'Where *are they made?* 'In the UK.'
- 1 'My name with a Y.' (*not spell*)
'How 'L, E, S, L, I, E.'
 - 2 'That kind of bird around here.' (*not usually see*)
'Where 'In warmer countries.'
 - 3 'Where like were.' (*not pronounce*)
'How 'Like wear.'
 - 4 'Diamonds in Scotland.' (*not find*)
'Where 'In South Africa, for example.'
 - 5 'My sister very well.' (*not pay*)
'How much 'I don't remember.'

future passive *Tomorrow your bicycle will be stolen.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	I will be woken	you will be woken	he/she/it will be woken etc
<input type="checkbox"/>	will I be woken?	will you be woken?	will he/she/it be woken? etc
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will not be woken	you will not be woken	he/she/it will not be woken etc
For contractions: (I'll, won't etc), see page 277.			

We use the **future passive** like the future active (see page 35), to say things that we **think, guess** or **know** about the **future**, or to ask questions about the future.

One day all the work **will be done** by machines. *Where will the match be played?*

1 Make future passive sentences with the verbs from the box.

clean	close ✓	finish	open	send	speak
-------	---------	--------	------	------	-------

- The motorway will be closed for three days.
 1 The museum by the Queen.
 2 One day English everywhere.
 3 This job in a few days.
 4 Your room while you're out.
 5 Your tickets to you next week.

2 Make future passive negatives and questions.

- 'The football match won't be played on Saturday.' (play)
 'When will it be played?' 'On Sunday.'
 1 'The visitors to the hotel by bus.' (take)
 'How?' 'By taxi.'
 2 'The new library in the Central Square.' (build)
 'Where?' 'Behind the Police Station.'
 3 'English at the conference.' (speak)
 'What language?' 'Chinese.'

3 Make five future passive sentences from the table.




Next year	your	clean / cook /	by	a small man in a raincoat /
Tomorrow	bed / bicycle /	do / eat / make /		a black cat / two old ladies /
Next week	breakfast / food /	send to Canada /		a beautiful woman /
Tonight	clothes / dinner /	steal / wash /		people from another world /
One day	glasses / house /	take away		the President / a big dog /
In 20 years	room / work			your old friend Peter /
				a machine

Tomorrow your bicycle will be stolen by your old friend Peter.

.....



simple past passive *I was stopped by a policeman.*

	<i>I was woken</i>	<i>you were woken</i>	<i>he/she/it was woken</i> etc
	<i>was I woken?</i>	<i>were you woken?</i>	<i>was he/she/it woken?</i> etc
	<i>I was not woken</i>	<i>you were not woken</i>	<i>he/she/it was not woken</i> etc
For contractions: (<i>wasn't</i> etc), see page 277.			

We use the **simple past passive** like the **simple past active**, for **complete finished actions and events** (see page 46).

This table was made by my grandfather. 'Was the letter signed?' We weren't met at the door.

① Complete the sentences with *was/were*.

- The fire seen in Renton, a kilometre away.
- Most of the matches won by Indian teams.
- These keys found in the changing room – are they yours?
- We couldn't find the station, but we helped by a very kind woman.
- I stopped by a policeman in Green Road this morning.
- Yesterday a man caught trying to burn down the Town Hall.

② Put simple past passive verbs into these sentences.

- Our passports by a tall woman in a uniform. (*take*)
- These books in the classroom yesterday. (*leave*)
- I don't think this room yesterday. (*clean*)
- We at the airport by a driver from the university. (*meet*)
- Nobody what was happening. (*tell*)
- He away to school when he was twelve. (*send*)

③ Make simple past passive negatives and questions.

- ▷ 'We ... ~~were~~ *weren't* paid when we finished the work.' (*not pay*)
'When ... ~~were~~ *you paid?* 'Two months later.'
- 'My father in England.' (*not educate*)
'Where 'In Germany.'
 - 'The letters on Tuesday.' (*not post*)
'When 'On Thursday.'
 - 'This in butter.' (*not cook*)
'How 'In margarine.'
 - 'My suit in England.' (*not make*)
'Where 'In Hong Kong.'
 - 'The restaurant bill in cash.' (*not pay*)
'How 'With a credit card.'




We use a passive structure – **to be born** – to give somebody's date or place of birth.

I was born in 1964. (NOT + born in 1964:) My sister was born in Egypt.

④ Write a sentence about your date and place of birth.

I

present progressive passive *It's being cleaned.*

	<i>I am being watched</i>	<i>you are being watched</i>	<i>he/she/it is being watched etc</i>
	<i>am I being watched?</i>	<i>are you being watched?</i>	<i>is he/she/it being watched? etc</i>
	<i>I am not being watched</i>	<i>you are not being watched</i>	<i>he/she/it is not being watched etc</i>
For contractions (I'm, isn't etc), see pages 2 and 277.			

We use the **present progressive passive** like the present progressive active, for things that are happening now (see page 22), or for things that are **planned for the future** (see page 34).

'Where's the carpet?' 'It's *being cleaned*.' When *are you being seen* by the doctor?

1 Questions and answers. Use the words in the box to complete answers to the questions. Use the present progressive passive.

grass / cut ✓ I / send it / clean my hair / cut she / interview watch / repair

- ▷ 'Can we play on the football pitch?' 'No, *the grass is being cut*.'
- 1 'Can't you wear your blue suit tonight?' 'No,'
- 2 'Did Alice get that new job?' 'Not yet - today.'
- 3 'What time is it?' 'Sorry, I don't know:'
- 4 'Why the big smile?' '..... to Hawaii for a week.'
- 5 I usually read a magazine while

2 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: travelling by air




Make sure you know the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then make six or more sentences about what is being done in this airport.

SUBJECTS: baggage	boarding passes	business people	cars	departures
passengers ✓	passports	reservations	tickets	
VERBS: announce	check	check in ✓	make	meet
			park	print
			sell	x-ray

Passengers are being checked in.



present perfect passive *The house has been sold.*

	<i>I have been seen</i>	<i>you have been seen</i>	<i>he/she/it has been seen</i> etc
	<i>have I been seen?</i>	<i>have you been seen?</i>	<i>has he/she/it been seen?</i> etc
	<i>I have not been seen</i>	<i>you have not been seen</i>	<i>he/she/it has not been seen</i> etc
For contractions (I've etc), see page 277.			

We use the **present perfect passive** like the present perfect active (see pages 54–61), to talk about past actions and events which are **important now** – for example, when we give people news.

The house on the corner has been sold. We haven't been invited to Ann's party.

1 News: put the verbs into the present perfect passive.

- ▷ A new university *has been opened* in Kew today by the Prince of Wales. (*open*)
- 1 Lord Retlaw for drunk driving. (*arrest*)
- 2 An old painting from a school in Wales for \$250,000
by an American museum. (*buy*)
- 3 An 18-year-old soldier in an accident in Devon. (*kill*)
- 4 The two lost children alive and well in a London park. (*find*)
- 5 An unknown actor to star in the new film of 'Macbeth'. (*choose*)

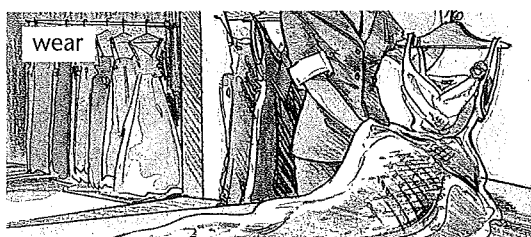
2 'It's never been done.' Make a sentence for each picture.



▷ *It's never been cut.*



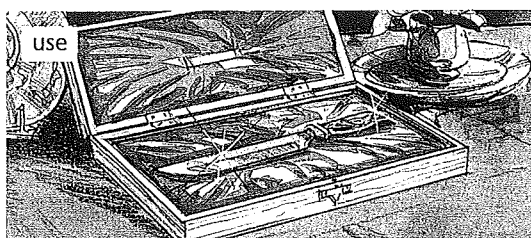
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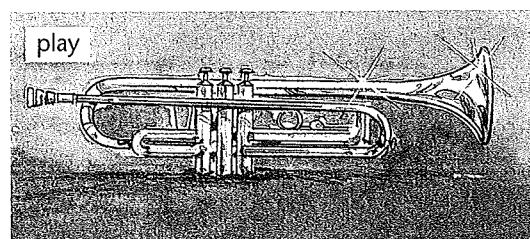
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3



4



5

verbs with two objects *We were given a week.*

Some verbs (for example *give, lend, promise, send* and *show*) can have two objects: a **person** and a **thing** (see page 140). If the person is last, we use *to*.

They gave Susan a prize. OR *They gave a prize to Susan.*

We sent Andy a birthday card. OR *We sent a birthday card to Andy.*

These verbs have two possible passive structures.

Susan was given a prize. OR *A prize was given to Susan.*

Andy was sent a birthday card. OR *A birthday card was sent to Andy.*

The structure with the person first (*Susan was given ...*) is very common.

1 Put the beginnings and ends together.

1 Jack has been promised a trip to Mexico	A to finish our English homework. ...
2 Ann has been shown several houses,	B while mine is being repaired. ...
3 We've been given three days	C but she hasn't seen one she likes. ...
4 I was sent an invitation to Alex's party,	D if he passes his exams. I
5 I'm being lent a new car	E but I don't think I'll go. ...

2 Make two sentences with each set of words. Use the simple past passive.

- ▷ lend / everyone / skis / for the day *Everyone was lent skis for the day. Skis were lent to everyone for the day.*
- 1 give / the younger children / picture books
- 2 lend / Anna and Joe / a car / by the Watsons
- 3 promise / Nathan / a new computer
- 4 send / some people / two invitations / by mistake
- 5 show / most of us / a film about Wales

3 Make simple past passive negatives and questions.

- ▷ My class / not give / a test *My class wasn't given a test.*
Who *was given a test?* / *Was* anybody *given a test?*
- 1 Cathy / not promise / a place
Who / anybody
- 2 We / not give / enough time
Who / anybody
- 3 Jon / not show / the hall
Who
/ any of the musicians
- 4 I / not give / an explanation
Who / anybody

by with passives Who was it made by?

With passives, we are mostly interested in the action – in what happens.

*The missing child has been found. The ear-rings were made in the first century BC.
German is spoken in Austria. Thousands of fish were killed, but no one knows how.*

If we want to say **who** or **what** does the action, we use **by**.

*The missing child was found by a French family. The ear-rings were made by a Roman goldsmith.
Urdu is spoken by a lot of people in London. Thousands of fish were killed by the chemicals.*

1 Complete each sentence with **by ...** and the best expression from the box.

a farmer a tree loud music my granddaughter a committee ✓ the government

- The name of the new school is being decided *by a committee* of parents and governors.
- 1 Most of the cost of university education is paid
 - 2 All the neighbours were woken up coming from the flat.
 - 3 I'm being taught how to use a computer
 - 4 A big box of Roman jewellery has been found in a field in Kent.
 - 5 The window was broken that fell over in the storm.

In passive questions, we usually prefer **Who ... by?**, especially in spoken English.

I really like the statue in the square. Who was it made by? Who were you invited by?

By whom ...? is also possible, especially in writing.

2 Ask past questions with **Who ... by?**

- 'Look at this beautiful photo.' (take) *Who was it taken by?*
- 1 'Dune is my favourite science fiction book.' (write)
 - 2 'Do you remember that song *Over the Rainbow*?' (sing)
 - 3 That's a wonderful picture. (paint)
 - 4 'Casablanca is the greatest film of all time.' (direct)
 - 5 'Our village school is a beautiful building.' (build)
 - 6 'I really like the name of the new school.' (choose)

We **only** use **by ...** if it is **really necessary**. (80% of passive sentences are made without **by ...**)

3 Cross out the expression *in italics* if you feel it gives no useful information.

- A 54-year-old accountant was arrested for drunk driving last night *by the police*.
- 1 'Romeo and Juliet' was written *by Shakespeare*.
 - 2 All of these birds have been seen in Britain *by people who watch birds*.
 - 3 Everest was first climbed in 1953 *by mountain climbers*.
 - 4 This house was built *by Frank Lloyd Wright*.
 - 5 My sister's books have been translated into thirty languages *by translators*.
 - 6 Sugar is made from sugar cane and sugar beet *by sugar companies*.
 - 7 This letter wasn't written *by an English person*.

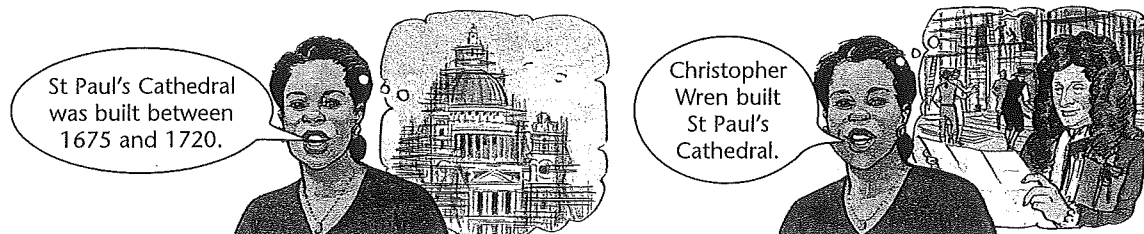
passive or active? which tense?

We choose passive or active so that we can start the sentence with the thing or person that we are talking about.

PASSIVE: *St Paul's Cathedral was built between 1675 and 1710.* (talking about the Cathedral)

PASSIVE: *St Paul's Cathedral was built by Christopher Wren.* (talking about the Cathedral)

ACTIVE: *Christopher Wren built St Paul's Cathedral.* (talking about Christopher Wren)



1 Make active and passive sentences.

► Shakespeare / 'Hamlet' / 1601 / write

Write about Shakespeare.*Shakespeare wrote 'Hamlet' in 1601.*.....

Write about 'Hamlet'. 'Hamlet' was written by *Shakespeare in 1601.*.....

1 this sweater / Ann's mother / make

Write about Ann's mother.

Write about this sweater.

2 Janet / the electricity bill / last week / pay

Write about Janet.

Write about the electricity bill.

3 the first television / J. L. Baird / 1924 / build

Write about the first television.

Write about J. L. Baird.

We choose passive or active to continue talking about the same thing or person.

Spanish is a useful language for travelling. It is spoken in most of Central and South America.

(Better than *People speak it in most ...*)

We've got two cats. They catch a lot of mice. (Better than *A lot of mice are caught by them.*)

2 Circle the best way to continue.

1 This ice cream has a very unusual taste. A I think someone makes it with coconut milk.

B I think it's made with coconut milk.

2 Rice is important in Cajun cooking. A People serve it with every meal.

B It's served with every meal.

3 Barry is very good to his parents. A He visits them two or three times a week.

B They are visited by him two or three times a week.

4 Carlo Vane is very popular at the moment. A They play his songs on the radio every day.

B His songs are played on the radio every day.

5 Alice is a very good poet. A She won a national poetry prize last year.

B A national poetry prize was won by her last year.

3 Put each verb into the simple present passive or active.

Gorillas (*find*) 1 are found in several countries in central Africa. They are about 1.6 metres tall, and they (*cover*) 2 with black or brown hair.

Gorillas' lives (*spend*) 3 in groups. Each group (*have*) 4 five to ten gorillas in it. The gorillas in a group (*walk*) 5 about 0.5 to 1.0 km per day, looking for food. They (*not eat*) 6 all the leaves in one part of the forest before moving on; some leaves (*leave*) 7 on the trees and plants. At night gorillas (*sleep*) 8 in nests; these nests (*make*) 9 of branches and leaves. The number of gorillas living in Africa today (*not know*) 10, but it is certain that this number is getting smaller. Why? Because in the countries where the gorillas (*live*) 11, more and more trees (*cut down*) 12 every year.



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4 Revision of passives: circle the correct tense in each sentence.

- Baseball is *being played* / *is played* by two teams of nine players.
- How many languages *are spoken* / *will be spoken* in 2100?
 - Yesterday, letters *are sent* / *was sent* / *were sent* to all the members of the club.
 - What kind of oil *is used* / *has been used* in Mexican cooking?
 - 'Where's your car?' '*It's repaired.*' / '*It's being repaired.*' / '*It's been repaired.*'
 - Oh, dear, I'm late – *is my name* / *has my name been called* yet?

5 Revision of passives: write the passive verbs in the correct tenses.

- Potatoes *were brought* to Europe from South America in the 1500s. (*bring*)
- Your class by Mrs Nash on Monday next week. (*teach*)
 - Five hundred years ago, Latin by people all over Europe. (*speak*)
 - I'm working at home today because my office (*paint*)
 - Someone's been using my desk – all my papers (*move*)
 - 'Two' and 'too' the same. (*pronounce*)

test yourself passives

1 Circle a passive or active verb form.

- 1 Derek *posted* / *was posted* his letter to the university today.
- 2 We did a lot of work for the school, but we *didn't pay* / *weren't paid*.
- 3 My friend Douglas *speaks* / *is spoken* seven languages.
- 4 The letter H *doesn't pronounce* / *isn't pronounced* in French.
- 5 A new hospital *will build* / *will be built* in the town centre.
- 6 You can't come in here – the room *is cleaning* / *is being cleaned*.
- 7 We *have invited* / *have been invited* to John's party tonight.

2 Put simple present, simple past or future passive verbs into these sentences.

- 'Frankenstein' *was written* by Mary Shelley. (*write*)
- 1 Butter from milk. (*make*)
 - 2 Last night two men in a fight in a nightclub. (*kill*)
 - 3 One day all our work by machines. (*do*)
 - 4 English as a second language by millions of people. (*speak*)

3 Circle the best way to continue.

- 1 I was really hungry. A I ate six eggs. B Six eggs were eaten by me.
- 2 George Yeo's new book is very good. A People bought 10,000 copies in the first week.
B 10,000 copies were bought in the first week.
- 3 This milk tastes funny. A I think someone has left it out of the fridge for too long.
B I think it's been left out of the fridge for too long.
- 4 Zoë takes good care of her car. A She checks the oil and tyres every week.
B The oil and tyres are checked by her every week.

4 Put present perfect or present progressive passive verbs into these sentences.

- 'Is the Army Museum still in Green Street?' 'No, it *has been closed* ' (*close*)
- 1 Don't look now, but I think we (*follow*)
 - 2 Hello, police? I'd like to report a theft. My handbag (*steal*)
 - 3 'Why did you take the bus?' 'My car ' (*repair*)
 - 4 I think someone's been in my room – some books (*move*)
 - 5 'There's nobody here.' 'No, all the students home.' (*send*)
 - 6 'When you ' 'Tomorrow morning.' (*interview*)

5 Use the words in *italics* as the subjects and verbs of passive sentences.

- *Nedjma* is sure she's going to get a pay rise. (*promise*)
Nedjma has been promised a pay rise.
- 1 All the passengers received *meal tickets*. (*give*)
.....
 - 2 *Ellen* has seen the plans for the new building. (*show*)
.....
 - 3 Someone has promised all the office workers *a week's holiday*. (*promise*)
.....
 - 4 Someone sent a bill for the repairs to *Laura*. (*send*)
.....

More difficult questions