

## The Passive Gerund

My daughter is unhappy **despite *being chosen*** for the scholarship.  
**Despite *being chosen*** for the scholarship, my daughter is unhappy.

### What is the passive?

#### be + past participle

- the verb 'be' changes in different tenses
- it also changes when we use a noun phrase

**Why? To focus on the action/object and not who does the action (subject)**

I **was** helped by my brother.

The windows **have been** washed.

The cars **are being** washed.

### What is a gerund?

**A noun form of a verb, using verb+ing**

**They can be objects:**

- I love ***singing*** in the shower.
- I like ***playing*** guitar.
- I hate ***exercising***.
- Nana enjoys ***pulling*** Paul's leg.

**They can be subjects:**

- ***Singing in the shower*** is fun.

**They often form part of a 'noun phrase':**

- *singing in the shower*
- *playing guitar*

## The verb 'be'

- be + adjectives : I **am** happy/ She **is** sad / She **was** sad /She has **been** sad for years.
- be + verb +ing : I **am** singing / I **was** singing / I have **been** singing / I had **been** singing
- passive : be + past participle: I **am** assisted by my neighbours/ I **was** hurt by a dog.

### Some conjunctions require noun phrases:

- due to
- resulting in
- despite

Despite (him) having long arms, Paul couldn't reach the spider on the ceiling.

John Smith

John Smith kept moving around during his cataract operation, **resulting in** him **being put under** general anaesthesia.

### Adjective:

**Despite** being tall, Paul is bad at basketball.

Paul is tall **but** he is bad at basketball.

### Passive gerund:

**Despite being told** on many occasions about his medication compliance, Alain refused to take it on time.

## Exercise

Let's look at a few sentences, focusing on 'due to', 'resulting in' and 'despite'. Decide if it is active or passive.

- 1) John/hit/car/not hospital
- 2) Sarah/unhappy/job/career change
- 3) Bert/mistake/fired
- 4) Mrs Smith/tired/bed/early
- 5) Jane/successful/exam/university/accept
- 6) admit/high temperature/Gordon/A&E/extremely

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## Answers

Let's look at a few sentences, focusing on 'due to', 'resulting in' and 'despite'. Decide if it is active or passive.

1) John/hit/car/not hospital

John was hit by a car but he did not go to hospital.  
Despite **being hit** by a car, John did not go to a hospital.

2) Sarah/unhappy/job/career change

Sarah was unhappy with her job **and as a result**, she changed career.

**Due to being** unhappy, Sarah changed career.

3) Bert/mistake/fired

- ~~Due to making a mistake, Bert was fired.~~
- ~~Due to being made a mistake, Bert was fired.~~
- Bert made a serious mistake, **resulting in** him *being fired*.
- Bert has been fired due to his mistake

4) Mrs Smith/tired/bed/early

Mrs Smith went to bed early due to being tired.

5) Jane/successful/exam/university/accept

Jane was successful in her exams, resulting in her being accepted at university.

6) admit/high temperature/Gordon/A&E/extremely

Gordon has been admitted to A&E due to having an extremely high temperature.