

The Passive in Multiple Tenses

Review the rules of the passive:

1. **always use *be + past participle***
2. you can use the passive in different tenses
3. the passive changes form in different tenses
4. ***be*** changes in different tenses
5. the ***past participle*** **NEVER** changes
6. you can introduce the subject/agent after '***by***'

Remember: the verb 'be' changes:

Present Simple	<p>I am taught by Paul. he/she/it is taught by Paul. you/we/they are taught by Paul.</p> <p>The bridge is maintained by the council. The bridge is painted every year.</p>	
Present Continuous	Present Continuous	Passive
	be + verb + ing	be + past participle
<p>What is happening to your brother? He is being arrested.</p>		
Past Simple	<p>Why has John got a black eye? Somebody punched him in the face! He was punched in the face!</p> <p>We wanted to go on the ride but we were told to go away.</p> <p>What happened to your brother last night? He was arrested.</p>	
Past Continuous	Past Continuous	Passive
	was/were + verb + ing	be + past participle
<p>What was happening to your brother when I picked you up last night? He was being arrested.</p>		

Present Perfect	Present Perfect	Passive
	has/have + past participle	be + past participle
	Why are you standing outside your office with all of your belongings? I have been sacked!	
Past Perfect	Past Perfect	Passive
	had + past participle	be + past participle
	My mum found me crying outside my office yesterday. I had been sacked!	
Future Simple	This building job seems very challenging. Don't worry. It will be done soon. I will be helped by my sons.	
Future Perfect	This building job seems very challenging. It will have been done by September	

Exercise

Work out the tense and then use the correct form of the passive:

- 1) Yesterday/John/bus/hospital (hit)
- 2) My son/crying/toy/ (take away)
- 3) Mrs Smith/not able /ADLs/nurse (help)
- 4) Last night/daughter/celebrate/scholarship (choose)

Answers

Work out the tense and then use the correct form of the passive:

- 1) Yesterday/John/bus/hospital (hit)

John **was hit** by a bus yesterday and he **was taken** to hospital.

- 2) My son/crying/toy/ (take away)

My son is crying because his toy **has been taken away**.

- 3) Mrs Smith/not able /ADLs/nurse (help)

Mrs Smith is not able to do her ADLs. As a result, she **is helped** by a nurse.

was not able to do / she was helped

- 4) Last night/daughter/celebrate/scholarship (choose)