

8th November 2024

OET Writing – Present Perfect Simple Passive Form

Starter

What's the difference between these two sentences?

1. "We have educated Mr Lopez about the importance of a healthy diet"
2. "Mr Lopez has been educated about the importance of a healthy diet"

We use the passive when...

The 'doer' of the action is unknown

ACTIVE: "Somebody has broken the MRI machine"

PASSIVE: **The MRI machine has been broken**

The 'doer' of the action is obvious

ACTIVE: "The doctor has prescribed metformin"

PASSIVE: **Metformin has been prescribed / Mr Smith has been prescribed metformin**

The 'doer' of the action is not important

ACTIVE: "We have decontaminated the equipment"

PASSIVE: **The equipment has been decontaminated**

We want to focus on the object of the verb rather than the subject

ACTIVE: "The nurse has educated Mr Iqbal on healthy exercise"

PASSIVE: **Mr Iqbal has been educated on healthy exercise (by the nurse)**

We want to make the sentence sound more formal

ACTIVE: "The kitchen staff have served lunch to the patients early"

PASSIVE: **Lunch has been served to the patients early / The patients have been served lunch early**

Using 'been':

1. I have **been to** Paris = visited (gone to and come back)
2. Laurence has **been** a good teacher = be (state was true in the past and is still true now)
3. Mr Smith has **been** prescribed metformin = passive
4. Mrs Bata has **been** doing regular exercise = continuous form

Practice:

Mr Adam White is scheduled for a colonoscopy next week and the management below is in preparation for this procedure:

- Management:**
- Observations – T: 37°C, P: 88, BP: 145/95 (notified Dr), R: 16
 - Pathology – FBE, U&Es, LFTs (will receive results pre-procedure)
 - Wt: 80kg, Ht: 190cm
 - Immediate cessation of smoking and reduction of alcohol intake advised
 - Previous anaesthetics – no issues → Explained will be heavily sedated, not full anaesthetic
 - NKA. Sensitive to codeine. Alert sticker attached to paperwork
→ Advised to notify all staff, but unlikely to need that amount of analgesic
 - Explained procedure – pre & post expectations to patient
 - Pt signed endoscopy (colonoscopy) consent form
 - Booklet given – procedure, risks, pain, bleeding, etc.
 - Pre-procedure: Day before – light breakfast then clear fluids only
Bowel prep instructions – fast midnight before procedure
 - Admission booklet explained → Pt arranged hospital pickup
 - Discussed importance of healthy diet & exercise

What tense should we use for these actions? **Present perfect simple because a recent past action has a present result or impact (Mr White will understand this information and will hopefully act on it)**

Should we use active or passive? Why? **A mixture depending on who does the action**

Some example sentences...

Mr White has been advised to cease smoking and reduce his alcohol intake.

Passive – The action happened to Mr White but the 'doer' is not important or is obvious

The colonoscopy procedure has been explained to Mr White.

Passive – The action happened to Mr White but the 'doer' is not important or is obvious

Mr White has signed the consent form.

Active – Mr White did the action