

LESSON 9

PASSIVE VOICE

Homework for lesson 10 :
Test about conditionals

- Grammar handout :
Continue to work on passive voice.
- Vocabulary and texts handout:
Questions 51 to 60, **section 1.**

Passive Voice

The **passive** is formed with the appropriate tense of the verb **to be + past participle**. Present Perfect Continuous, Future Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous are not normally used in the passive. Note that only transitive verbs (verbs which take an object) can be put into the passive.

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present Simple	<i>They restore buildings.</i>	<i>Buildings are restored.</i>
Present Continuous	<i>They are restoring the building.</i>	<i>The building is being restored.</i>
Past Simple	<i>They restored the building.</i>	<i>The building was restored.</i>
Past Continuous	<i>They were restoring the building.</i>	<i>The building was being restored.</i>
Future Simple	<i>They will restore the building.</i>	<i>The building will be restored.</i>
Present Perfect	<i>They have restored the building.</i>	<i>The building has been restored.</i>
Past Perfect	<i>They had restored the building.</i>	<i>The building had been restored.</i>
Future Perfect	<i>They will have restored the building.</i>	<i>The building will have been restored.</i>
Present infinitive	<i>They should restore the building.</i>	<i>The building should be restored.</i>
Perfect infinitive	<i>They should have restored the building.</i>	<i>The building should have been restored.</i>
-ing form	<i>They like people restoring buildings.</i>	<i>They like buildings being restored.</i>
Perfect -ing form	<i>Having restored the building, ...</i>	<i>The building, having been restored, ...</i>
Modal + be + p.p.	<i>They must restore the building.</i>	<i>The building must be restored.</i>

Note: **Get** is used in colloquial English instead of **be** to express something happening by accident.
*He'll **get** hurt if he plays like that.*

The passive is used

- when the person performing the action (**agent**) is **unknown, unimportant** or **obvious from the context**. *The rooms **have been searched** thoroughly. (by the police - obvious agent)*
- to **emphasise** the agent. *The maths lesson was taken **by the English teacher** yesterday.*
- when we are interested more in the action than the agent, such as in **news reports, formal notices, instructions, processes, headlines, advertisements** etc. *"Crocodiles **have been set free** ..."*
- to make **statements** more **formal** or **polite**. *The vase **has been broken**. (more polite than saying "You have broken the vase.")*

32 Write sentences in the passive as in the example:

- 1 (Her hair/dye/at the moment) Her hair is being dyed at the moment.
- 2 (The Queen/not drive/to the embassy/yet) The Queen has not been driven to the embassy yet.
- 3 (The Hay Wain/paint/Constable) The Hay was painted by the Constable.
- 4 (Most olives/grow/the Mediterranean) Most olives are grown in the Mediterranean.
- 5 (The convict/take/to prison/now) The convict is being taken to prison now.
- 6 (His wound/not treat/yet) His wound has not been treated yet.
- 7 (My car/break into/last night) My car was broken into last night.
- 8 (The trees/prune/a tree surgeon/last week) The trees were pruned by a tree surgeon last week.

- 9 (Reservations/can/make/by dialling 001 now) Reservations can be made by dialling 001 now.
- 10 (Our house/clean/weekly) Our house is cleaned weekly.
- 11 (He/bring up/his grandparents) He was brought up by his grandparents.
- 12 (The book/not write/yet) The book hasn't been written yet.
- 13 (The building/demolish/by next year) The building will have been demolished by next year.
- 14 (The new school/open/next week/the mayor) The new school will be opened by the mayor next week.
- 15 (Sally's shoes/re-heel/last Saturday) Sally's shoes were re-heeled last Saturday.
- 16 (The dustbins/empty/recently) The dustbins have been emptied recently.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct passive form.

- 1 Polar bears ... *are hunted* ... (hunt) for their fur.
- 2 A lecture *is being given* (give) in the main hall at the moment.
- 3 After *being awarded* a medal for bravery, he became a local hero.
- 4 Her ankle ... *was hurt* ... (hurt) when she fell down.
- 5 She thinks her car *was/has been stolen* by someone she knows.
- 6 The apartment ... *was sold* ... (sell) last week.
- 7 I hate ... *being lied to* ... (lie to) by my friends.
- 8 Nurses really ought ... *to be paid* ... (pay) more than they are.
- 9 The music must *be turned down* by 12 o'clock at the latest.
- 10 Your free gift *will be sent* (send) to you in the next few days.
- 11 I wish I *had been taught* (teach) how to use a computer when I was at school.
- 12 Human bones *were found* (find) by archaeologists yesterday.
- 13 My car ... *is being repaired* ... (repair) at the moment, so I can't give you a lift.
- 14 New York ... *is said to be* ... (say) to be one of the most dangerous cities in the world.
- 15 Hopefully, all forms of discrimination *will have been wiped out* (wipe out) by the end of this century.

Changing from Active into Passive

- The object of the active verb becomes the subject in the passive sentence. The active verb changes into a passive form and the subject of the active verb becomes the agent which is either introduced with “by” or is omitted.

	Subject	Verb	Object	Agent
Active	<i>Kate</i>	<i>wrote</i>	<i>the story.</i>	
Passive	<i>The story</i>	<i>was written</i>		<i>by Kate.</i>

- **By + agent** is used to say who or what did the action

She was knocked down by a lorry. = a lorry driver

- **By + agent** is omitted when the agent is **unknown, unimportant, obvious from the context** or words such as: **someone, people, I, etc.** They will give more information soon. → More information will be given soon. ("by them" is omitted)

- In **passive questions with who, whom or which** we do not omit **by**.
Who offered her the job? → Who was she offered the job by?

With + instrument or material is used to say what the agent used.

The policeman was stabbed with a knife.

- Verbs followed by a preposition (*look after, accuse of etc*) take the preposition immediately after them when turned into the passive. *She looks after her daughter well. ⇒ Her daughter is looked after well.*
- For verbs which take two objects, it is more usual to begin the sentence with the person. *They gave her all the details. ⇒ She was given all the details. (more usual than: All the details were given to her.)*
- **Make, hear, help, see** are followed by a **to-infinitive** in the passive. *They saw him cross the street. ⇒ He was seen to cross the street. Note that **hear, see, watch** can be followed by a **present participle** in the active and passive. *We heard him playing the guitar. ⇒ He was heard playing the guitar.**

134 *Change the sentences from the active into the passive.
Omit the agent where it can be omitted.*

- 1 The British eat over thirty million hamburgers each year.
...Over thirty million hamburgers are eaten by the British each year....
- 2 Who wrote "One Hundred Years of Solitude"? *Who was « OTHOS » written by?*
- 3 The bad weather has spoiled my holiday plans. *My holiday plans have been spoiled by the bad weather.*
- 4 Do they always pay their workers on time? *Are their workers always paid on time?*
- 5 The children picked the strawberries. *The strawberries were picked by the children.*
- 6 She saw them go out. *They were seen TO go out.*
- 7 You should wash those walls before you paint them. *Those walls should be washed before they are painted.*

All her books were translated into English (by Penguin.)

8 Penguin have translated all her books into English.

9 He objects to people telling him what to do. He objects to being told what to do.

10 Tesco are converting the old bank into a supermarket. The old bank is being converted into a supermarket.

11 They told him not to say anything to her. He was told not to say anything.

12 Did they give you a reward for finding their cat? Were you given a reward for finding their cat?

13 The nurses take very good care of the patients. The patients are taken very good care of.

14 Everyone heard her shouting at the students. She was heard shouting at the students.

15 Why have they given him a promotion? Why has he been given a promotion?

16 I love people giving me presents. I love being given presents.

- 17 When we got to the theatre, they had sold all the tickets. ...all the tickets had been sold.
- 18 The police have just arrested the man who broke into our house. The man who broke into our house has just been arrested.
- 19 What did he tell you to do? What were you told to do?
- 20 Oxfam will hold a fashion show next week. A fashion show will be held next week.
- 21 They are holding the next World Cup in France. The next WC is being held in France.
- 22 When did they demolish that building? When was that building demolished?
- 23 The officers took the suspect in for questioning. The suspect was taken in for questioning.
- 24 Will they hand out free T-shirts at the concert? .. Will free T-shirts be handed out at the concert?
- 25 Does the school provide accommodation for all new teachers? ..

Is accommodation provided for all new teachers?

35 *Change the sentences from the passive into the active.*

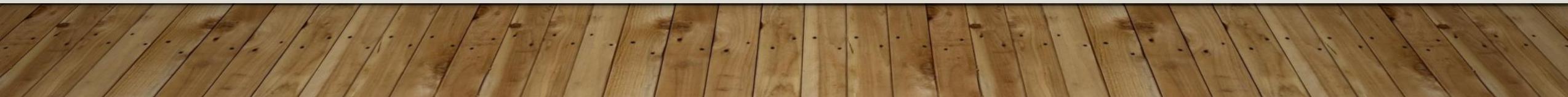
- 1 Why was James asked to leave the club? ... *Why did they ask James to leave the club?...*
- 2 They love being invited to parties. *They love when people invite them to parties.*
- 3 The best cream cakes are made by Sayers. *Sayers make the best cream cakes.*
- 4 By the end of the party all the food had been eat ...*they had eaten all the food.*
- 5 Sanchez was beaten by Graff in the Women's Tennis Final *Graff beat Sanchez...*
- 6 My glasses must have been thrown away by mistake. *Someone must have thrown away my glasses.*

- 7 The building is being examined by Health and Safety experts this week.
.. Health and Safety experts are examining the building this week.
- 8 Who was the television invented by? Who invented the television?
- 9 She was heard complaining about the new timetable. They heard her complaining about the new tt.
- 10 She was sent a telegram by the Queen on her 100th birthday. The Queen sent her a telegram...
- 11 The English language is now spoken by over two billion people worldwide.
Over two billion people speak the English language worldwide.
- 12 My overdraft is being extended by the bank tomorrow. The bank is extending my overdraft tomorrow.

- 13 Hundreds of free gifts are being given away by Donels this Saturday. Donels are giving HOFQ this S.
- 14 Why haven't the beds been made yet? . Why haven't they made the beds yet?
- 15 I hate being taken for granted. I hate people taking me for granted.
- 16 The tickets should have been booked weeks ago. They should have booked the tickets weeks ago.
- 17 A new shopping centre is being built on the outskirts of town. They are building a NSC...
- 18 Why was I not told about the meeting? . Why didn't they tell me about the meeting?



- 19 Further information can be obtained from your local post office. *You can obtain further information...*
- 20 When will you be interviewed for the post? *When will they interview you for the post?*
- 21 Who was Gilbert interviewed by? *Who interviewed Gilbert?*
- 22 She hasn't been christened yet. *They haven't christened her yet.*
- 23 A new shampoo is being developed in the lab. *They are developing a new shampoo.*
- 24 The awards will be presented by Tom Hanks. *TH will present the awards.*
- 25 Rainforests are being cut down in the Amazon. *They are cutting rainforests in the Amazon.*



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Fill in "by " or "with".

- 1 This suit was designed ...*by*... Armani.
- 2 This cake is filled*with*..... fresh cream.
- 3 Who was Australia discovered*by*.....?
- 4 Ford cars are made*by*..... experts.
- 5 The baby was covered*with*..... a blanket.
- 6 "Carmen" was composed*by*..... Bizet.
- 7 The coat was lined*with*..... fur.
- 8 The food will be provided*by*..... caterers.
- 9 The stew was flavoured*with*..... garlic.
- 10 The Royal Wedding was watched*by*..... millions.

137 *Change into the passive.*

Last month Samuel Block opened a restaurant in the centre of Macclesfield. He had planned it for over five years but he only completed it after local businessmen raised a large sum of money. A top hotelier has trained the waiters and they will wear specially designed uniforms to fit in with the restaurant's modern look. They have brought in a famous chef from France and they are going to give him complete control over the daily menu.

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- Vocabulary and texts handout: Questions 98 to 104, section 4.

Questions 98-104

The longest bull run in a century of art-market history ended on a dramatic note with a sale of 56 works by Damien Hirst, “Beautiful Inside My Head Forever”, at Sotheby’s in London on September 15th 2008. All but two pieces sold, fetching more than £70m, a record for a sale by a single artist. As the auctioneer called out bids, in New York one of the oldest banks on Wall Street, Lehman Brothers, filed for bankruptcy.

The world art market had already been losing momentum for a while after rising vertiginously since 2003. At its peak in 2007 it was worth some \$65 billion, double the figure five years earlier. Since then it may have come down to \$50 billion; however, the market generates interest far beyond its size because it brings together great wealth, enormous egos, greed, passion and controversy in a way matched by few other industries.



In the weeks and months that followed Mr Hirst's sale, spending of any sort became deeply unfashionable, especially in New York, where the bail-out of the banks coincided with the loss of thousands of jobs and the financial demise of many art-buying investors. In the art world that meant collectors stayed away from galleries and salerooms. Sales of contemporary art fell by two-thirds. The current downturn in the art market is the worst since the Japanese stopped buying Impressionists at the end of 1989, a move that started the most serious contraction in the market since the Second World War. This time experts reckon that prices are about 40% down on their peak on average, though some have been far more volatile.



The best that can be said about the market at the moment is that it is holding its breath. But many industry specialists believe that it will bounce back, and that the key to its recovery lies in globalization. This trend can already be seen in the regional spread of buyers which has changed significantly in the past years as some parts of the world have become relatively richer. Last year China overtook France as the world's third-biggest art market after America and Britain.

Auction records remain dominated by Impressionist and modern works, but the biggest expansion in recent years has been in contemporary art. Prices of older works keep going up as more people have money to spend, but few such works become available because both collectors and museums tend to hold on to what they have.

98. *In lines 4-5 why does the author mention Lehman Brothers?*

- a) To show the irony of the situation
- b) To express his sadness for the company
- c) To contrast two similar situations
- d) To emphasize the unimportance of the art sale

99. *The word "fetching" in line 3 is closest in meaning to:*

- a) going in
- b) going to
- c) going on
- d) going for

100. *According to the passage, the value of the world art market has*

- a) decreased steadily since 2003
- b) increased rapidly since 2007
- c) been cut in half since 2007
- d) fluctuated since 2003

101. The word "vertiginously" in line 6 is closest in meaning to:

- a) rapidly
- b) inconstantly
- c) gradually
- d) slowly

102. Which of the following is true about the art market?

- a) The Japanese play a minimal role in its performance
- b) It would not have lost momentum if Lehman Brothers had not filed for bankruptcy
- c) Economic production and art sales are directly related
- d) Museums are selling their art to help withstand the economic crisis

103. According to the author, what is happening to older works of art?

- a) Museums refuse to buy them because they are too risky
- b) They are easy to buy if you have enough money to spend
- c) Their value continues to increase
- d) Their price is down 40%

104. The word "bail-out" in line 12 is closest in meaning to:

- a) purchase
- b) abandon
- c) rescue
- d) close

Homework for lesson 10 :

- Grammar handout :

Continue to work on passive voice.

- Vocabulary and texts handout:

Questions 51 to 60, **section 1**.