PASSIVE AND CAUSTIVE SENTENCES

PASSIVE SENTENCES

The passive voice is formed by the verb **BE** (in any tense) and the **past participle** of the main verb. Remember that regular past participle are formed by adding –ed to the verb, whereas irregular past participles are those of the 3rd column.

Sujeto + Be + Past Participle + (By-agent)

The building was built in 1997 by Calatrava

This film **has been directed** by Tim Burton

The passive voice is much more common in English than in Spanish, and we frequently translate it as an active form or impersonal form of the verb. We use the passive voice when we want to focus on the action, not the agent, and also when the agent is obvious or unknown. In these cases, it can be omitted.

The burglar was arrested **(by the police)** as soon as he left the house

This car was bought **(by him)** three years ago.

When we want to change active sentences into passive ones, we follow these steps:

ACTIVE VOICE		PASSIVE VOICE		
Direct object		Passive	Passive subject	
Active verb —————		Passive	Passive verb	
Direct Subject —————		→ By – agent		
Somebody	cleans	this house	everyday	
This house	is cleaned	(by somebody)	everyday	

EXAMPLES OF VERB CHANGES			
	ACTIVE	PASSIVE	
Present simple	Tom cleans the house everyday	The house is cleaned by Tom everyday	
Pres continuous	Sarah is writing a letter	A letter is being written by Sarah	
Past simple	Sam repaired the car	The car was repaired by Sam	
Past continuous	The man was helping the child	The child was being helped by the man	
Present perfect	Many tourists have visited the castle	The castle has been visited by many tourists	
Past perfect	George had brought dinner	Dinner had been brought by George	
Future will	Carol will finish the project	The project will be finished by Carol	
Fut. be going to	Sally is going to cook a nice chicken	A nice chicken is going to be cooked by Sally	
Modals	The police might arrest the murderer	The murderer might be arrested by the police	

Ditransitive verbs

Some verbs can have two objects, such as ask, give, offer, pay, show, teach, tell

My mum gave
$$\underline{me}$$
 \underline{a} \underline{book} for my birthday $\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$ IO DO

In these cases, it is possible to make <u>two sentences</u> into the passive voice, depending on whether we choose the indirect or the direct object as the Subject for the passive sentence.

I was given a book

A book was given to me

When we use these verbs, it is more frequent to use the indirect object (person) as passive subject.

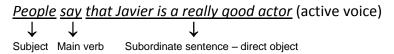
I was offered the job but I refused The men will be paid £400 for their work Have you been shown the new machine?

However, if we use the direct object as subject of the passive voice, we must add TO to the indirect object.

The job was offered **TO** me but I refused £400 will be paid **TO** The men for their work Has the new machine been shown **TO** you?

Impersonal passive sentences

They frequently go with the verbs **say, think, believe** in the main sentence, while the complete subordinate sentence works as the direct object. In these cases, there are two ways of turning the active sentence into the passive voice.



The first option implies using **IT** as the subject and making the main verb passive, while the rest of the sentence remains the same.

It is said that Javier is a really good actor

In the second option, we take the subject of the subordinate sentence as subject of the passive sentence, then turn the verb of the main subject into the passive voice and, after that, we add **TO** + base form of the verb of the subordinate clause.

Javier is said to be a really good actor

CAUSATIVE SENTENCES

We use the causative when we refer to an action that is done for us by someone else. It means that we caused the action to happen, but we didn't do it ourselves. This is, we paid, asked or persuaded someone else to do it. It can appear in most verbal tenses. It is formed with the verbs have / get and there is no difference between them, although get is more informal and, therefore, more used in spoken English.

Subject + have / get + object + past participle

He <u>is having the scene filmed</u> in India

I <u>got my hair cut</u> last week

The structure has a passive sense because the object which appears in the middle receives the action of the verb in past participle, but it is usually translated in the active voice.

You should have your car checked every year Deberías revisar el coche todos los años

* Variations

There are other types of causative sentences formed with **have / let / make** which are followed by a person instead of an object, and a verb in its base form (not past participle)

Subject + have / let / make + person + verb

I <u>had the electrician look</u> at my broken light

John <u>let me drive</u> his new car

The teacher <u>made him apologize</u> for what he said

We can also use **get** in this way but, then, the verb has to be accompanied by **to**. Sometimes, this causative has the feeling that we needed to convince someone to do something, while the other ones are neutral

Subject + get + person + to verb

I got the electrician to look at my broken light

She gets her son to do his homework every afternoon

ADJECTIVES FOLLOWED BY PREPOSITIONS

It is very frequent to find with the verb TO BE adjectives followed by a preposition plus a noun, pronoun or gerund verb. They are adjectives functioning as attributes. Some of them can only be followed by a specific preposition.

The government is <u>responsible for our national parks</u>
We are <u>interested in studying Linguistics</u>

Other adjectives can appear with different prepositions, but the meaning changes depending on the preposition used.

Those lions were <u>tired from their fight</u>
They were tired of calling him

Here you have a list of adjectives commonly used with a preposition:

Angry at: enfadado con Nervous about: nervioso por

Aware of: consciente de Optimistic about: optimista con respecto a

Bad at: malo en algo Pleased for: contento por

Concerned about: preocupado por Proud of: orgulloso de Different to / from: diferente con respecto a Relunctant for: reacio a

Excited about: entusiasmado por / con **Responsible for**: responsable de **Famous for**: famoso / conocido por **Fluent in**: fluido en / que tiene fluidez en **Responsible for**: responsable de **Satisfied with**: satisfecho con **Similar to:** similar / parecido a

Good at: bueno en Suitable for: adecuado / apropiado para

Good for: bueno para Thrilled about/with: emocionado/entusiasmado con

Guilty of: culpable de **Tired from**: cansado por **Hopeful about**: esperanzado por / en **Tired of**: cansado de

Inclined to: dispuesto a Unhappy with: descontento con

Interested in: interesado en Upset about: disgustado / molesto por Involved in: implicado / envuelto en Upset with: disgustado / molesto con

Keen on: interesado en **Worried about**: preocupado por **Married to**: casado con