

Active sentences with two objects in passive

When there are two objects in an active sentence, there are two possible active sentences and two possible passive sentences.

possibility 1: The professor explained the students the exercise.

possibility 2: The professor explained the exercise to the students.

There are two objects in each of the following sentences:

object 1 = indirect object: the students

object 2 = direct object: the exercise

An indirect object is very often a person, a direct object a thing. When a direct object is followed by an indirect one, we put it in front of the indirect object.

active sentence - possibility 1

subject	verb	indirect object	direct object
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The professor explained the students the exercise.

active sentence - possibility 2

subject	verb	direct object	indirect object
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The professor explained the exercise to the students.

Each of the objects (direct and indirect) can be the subject in the passive sentence.

passive sentence - possibility 1

subject	verb	object	(by-agent)
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The students were explained the exercise. (by the professor).

passive sentence - possibility 2

subject	verb	object	(by-agent)
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The exercise was explained to the students (by the professor).

Passive sentences with by

We are normally not interested in the "doer" of an action in a passive sentence. When we want to mention the "doer", we use the preposition by. The whole phrase is called by-agent in English.

Active sentence

Mr Brown built the house.

Passive sentence

The house was built by Mr Brown.

When we do not know, who was the "doer" of the action, we use someone or somebody in the active sentence. We leave out these words in the passive sentence.

Active sentence	Passive sentence
Someone stole my bike.	My bike was stolen.

Questions in Passive

Questions in Passive are formed with to be and the past participle.

1a. Questions without question words in Passive (Simple Present)

Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Yes/No	Subject	Auxiliary (+ n't)
				Yes,	it	is.
Is	the test	written	in room 311?	No,	it	is not.
				No,	it	isn't.
				Yes,	they	are.
Are	grapes	grown	in California?	No,	they	are not.
				No,	they	aren't.

1b. Questions with question words in Passive (Simple Present)

Question word	Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Answer
Where	is	the test	written?		The test is written in room 311.
Why	are	grapes	grown	in California?	Grapes are grown in California because it's warm and sunny.

2a. Questions without question words in Passive (Simple Past)

Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Yes/No	Subject	Auxiliary (+ n't)
				Yes,	it	was.
Was	the book	taken	to the classroom?	No,	it	was not.
				No,	it	wasn't.
				Yes,	they	were.
Were	the students	taught	at home?	No,	they	were not.
				No,	they	weren't.

2b. Questions with question words in Passive (Simple Past)

Question word	Form of to be	Subject	past participle	Rest	Answer
Where	was	the book	taken?		The book was taken to the classroom.
Why	were	the students	taught	at home?	The students were taught at home because the school was closed.

Here are some more example in other tenses. Let's start with the Simple forms:

Tense	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb
Present Perfect	Has	the house	been built?
Past Perfect	Had	the house	been built?
will-future	Will	the house	be built?
going to-future	Is	the house	going to be built?
Future Perfect	Will	the house	have been built?

Conditional I	Would	the house	be built?
Conditional II	Would	the house	have been built?

And now two Progressive forms:

Tense	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb
Present Progressive	Is	the house	being built?
Past Progressive	Was	the house	being built?

Form **Questions in Passive** using the given words/phrases.

Example: coffee / grown / in South America / is
_____?

Answer: coffee / grown / in South America / is
Is coffee grown in South America?

1) caught the thieves were

_____?

2) always are written the tests in the language lab

_____?

3) accepted will my apology be

_____?

4) are eagles found in Alaska

_____?

5) the Eiffel Tower was for the World Exhibition built in 1889

_____?

6) the workers replaced by computers will be

_____?

7) together can beans and carrots cooked be

_____?

8) was seen by the police the accident yesterday

_____?

9) where was opened the first underground railway

_____?

10) the books be are returned going to to the school

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