

Prepare for {IELTS}

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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Passives

DIFFERENT TENSES

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EXPLANATION

- **PASSIVES** are important structures in English.
- We usually form **PASSIVES** with the verb **to be** and a **PAST PARTICIPLE** such as **eaten, gone** or **given**.
- There are many **PASSIVE** forms, including some very complex forms which will impress the IELTS examiner.
- Being able to use **PASSIVES** in your IELTS Writing Test, and being able to recognise **PASSIVES** in the IELTS Reading Test, can be especially useful.
- Nearly all **tenses** have a **PASSIVE** form.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

PRESENT SIMPLE

- **ACTIVE:** Somebody **heats** the material. Somebody **pours** it into containers. Somebody carefully **labels** these containers.
- **PASSIVE:** The material **is heated** until it becomes a liquid. This substance **is** then **poured** into containers. Each container **is** carefully **labelled**.
- **ACTIVE:** Experts **know** that dolphins are amongst the cleverest animals on the planet. Experts **say** that they have highly advanced brains.
- **PASSIVE:** Dolphins **are known** to be amongst the cleverest animals on the planet. They **are said** to have highly advanced brains.
- **PASSIVE:** It **is known** that dolphins are... ; It **is said** that dolphins have...

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- **ACTIVE:** Environmentalists often claim that greedy humans **are** gradually **destroying** our planet: they **are chopping down** its trees, **polluting** its rivers and **using up** its non-renewable resources.
- **PASSIVE:** Environmentalists often claim that our planet **is** gradually **being destroyed** by greedy humans: its trees **are being chopped down**, its rivers **are being polluted** and its non-renewable resources **are being used up**.
- **ACTIVE:** It has been estimated that at this precise moment, somewhere on Earth, people **are eating** half a million hamburgers.
- **PASSIVE:** It has been estimated that at this precise moment, somewhere on Earth, half a million hamburgers **are being eaten**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

PAST SIMPLE

- **ACTIVE:** In the past, teachers often **caned** schoolchildren who behaved badly. If their behaviour was exceptionally bad, teachers sometimes **expelled** them.
- **PASSIVE:** In the past, schoolchildren who behaved badly **were** often **caned** by their teacher. If their behaviour was exceptionally bad, they **were** sometimes **expelled**.
- **ACTIVE:** In the past, people around the world **did not** generally **understand** English. These days it has become a global language.
- **PASSIVE:** In the past, English **was not** generally **understood** around the world. These days it has become a global language.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

PAST CONTINUOUS

- **ACTIVE:** It has come to light that the authorities **were killing** political prisoners throughout the entire decade.
- **PASSIVE:** It has come to light that political prisoners **were being killed** throughout the entire decade.
- **ACTIVE:** Shockingly, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, tobacco manufacturers **were telling** smokers that cigarettes were safe, even though these same producers had access to research which clearly showed that cigarettes caused cancer.
- **PASSIVE:** Shockingly, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, smokers **were being told** by tobacco manufacturers that cigarettes were safe, even though these same producers had access to research which clearly showed that cigarettes caused cancer.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

PRESENT PERFECT

- **ACTIVE:** Many people **have** long **debated** the issue of whether governments should intervene to raise alcohol prices to stop vulnerable individuals from drinking.
- **PASSIVE:** The issue of whether governments should intervene to raise alcohol prices to stop vulnerable individuals from drinking **has** long **been debated**.
- **ACTIVE:** When somebody **has committed** a crime, police officers need to interview eye-witnesses and attempt to identify possible suspects.
- **PASSIVE:** When a crime **has been committed**, police officers need to interview eye-witnesses and attempt to identify possible suspects.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

PAST PERFECT

- **ACTIVE:** By the year 2010, primarily as a consequence of rises in ocean temperatures, we **had** permanently **destroyed** around a third of The Great Barrier Reef.
- **PASSIVE:** By the year 2010, around a third of The Great Barrier Reef **had been** permanently **destroyed**, primarily as a consequence of rises in ocean temperatures.
- **ACTIVE:** By the beginning of the twentieth century, the authorities **had raised** life expectancy, largely thanks to improvements in sanitation and public health.
- **PASSIVE:** By the beginning of the twentieth century, life expectancy **had been raised**, largely thanks to improvements in sanitation and public health.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

USED TO

- **ACTIVE:** Adults **used to expect** young children to obey them without question. Thankfully in my view, this is no longer the case. Nowadays, youngsters are given the opportunity to express themselves freely.
- **PASSIVE:** Young children **used to be expected** to obey adults without question. Thankfully in my view, this is no longer the case. Nowadays, youngsters are given the opportunity to express themselves freely.
- **ACTIVE:** Companies **used to give** employees a pay rise at the end of each year. Thanks to the economic austerity of the early twenty-first century, this is no longer common practice.
- **PASSIVE:** Employees **used to be given** a pay rise at the end of each year. Thanks to the economic austerity of the early twenty-first century, this is no longer common practice.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

SIMPLE FUTURE

- **ACTIVE:** It is hoped that the powers-that-be **will** soon **develop** strategies to deal with the crisis of homelessness.
- **PASSIVE:** It is hoped that strategies **will** soon **be developed** to deal with the crisis of homelessness.
- **ACTIVE:** It is predicted that we **will** soon **see** driverless cars on our streets.
- **PASSIVE:** It is predicted that driverless cars **will** soon **be seen** on our streets.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

FUTURE PERFECT

- **ACTIVE:** By the year 2050, we **will have lost** much of our agricultural land. The situation **will have forced** us to find new ways of growing all the food we need.
- **PASSIVE:** By the year 2050, much of our agricultural land **will have been lost**. As a species, we **will have been forced** to find new ways of growing all the food we need.
- **ACTIVE:** Some predict that, by the end of this century, we **will have destroyed** our planet through nuclear war. They claim that we **will have** utterly **annihilated** our species.
- **PASSIVE:** Some predict that, by the end of this century, our planet **will have been destroyed** by nuclear war. They claim that our species **will have been** utterly **annihilated**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

- **ACTIVE:** This time tomorrow, I will be at work. People **will be shouting at** me and my boss **will be telling** me what to do.
- **PASSIVE:** This time tomorrow, I will be at work. I **will be being shouted at** and I **will be being told** what to do by my boss.
- **ACTIVE:** In the not too distant future, we **will be eating** insects instead of cows and pigs.
- **PASSIVE:** In the not too distant future, insects **will be being eaten** instead of cows and pigs.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

CONDITIONALS

- **ACTIVE:** I **would eat** everything.
- **PASSIVE:** Everything **would be eaten**.
- **ACTIVE:** We **would win** easily.
- **PASSIVE:** The competition **would be won** easily by us.
- **ACTIVE:** They **would build** a house of bricks.
- **PASSIVE:** The house **would be built** of bricks.
- **ACTIVE:** They **would believe** it.
- **PASSIVE:** It **would be believed**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

- **ACTIVE:** Unless we actually **imprison** motorists for speeding, they are unlikely to worry too much about driving safely.
- **PASSIVE:** Unless motorists **are** actually **imprisoned** for speeding, they are unlikely to worry too much about driving safely.
- **ACTIVE:** If somebody **gave** me the opportunity to represent my country at sport, I would be greatly honoured.
- **PASSIVE:** If I **was/were given** the opportunity to represent my country at sport, I would be greatly honoured.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

- **ACTIVE:** If, in the past, we **had forced** children to study engineering and technology, the economy now would be considerably stronger.
- **PASSIVE:** If children in the past **had been forced** to study engineering and technology, the economy now would be considerably stronger.
- **ACTIVE:** If thousands of people protest on the streets, the police **may/will shoot** some of them.
- **PASSIVE:** If thousands of people protest on the streets, some of them **may/will be shot** by the police.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

- **ACTIVE:** If I put a lot of money on the table, somebody **would** certainly **take** it.
- **PASSIVE:** If I put a lot of money on the table, it **would** certainly **be** taken.
- **ACTIVE:** If we **had not invented** the motorcar, it **would not have killed** thousands in road-traffic accidents.
- **PASSIVE:** If the motorcar **had not been invented**, thousands **would not have been killed** in road-traffic accidents.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Passives

MODALS

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EXPLANATION

- **PASSIVES** are important structures in English.
- We usually form **PASSIVES** with the verb **to be** and a **PAST PARTICIPLE** such as **eaten, gone** or **given**.
- There are many **PASSIVE** forms, including some very complex forms which will impress the IELTS examiner.
- Being able to use **PASSIVES** in your IELTS Writing Test, and being able to recognise **PASSIVES** in the IELTS Reading Test, can be especially useful.
- **PASSIVES** can be used with **modal verbs** in the present, past and future.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

MODALS: SIMPLE FORMS

- **ACTIVE:** Qualified and motivated teachers **should teach / ought to teach** children.
- **PASSIVE:** Children **should be taught / ought to be taught** by qualified and motivated teachers.
- **ACTIVE:** We **must treat** all members of the human race equally.
- **PASSIVE:** All members of the human race **must be treated** equally.
- **ACTIVE:** We **might/could improve** the situation as we develop technology.
- **PASSIVE:** The situation **might/could be improved** as technology is developed.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

MODALS: SIMPLE FORMS

- **ACTIVE:** External factors **can manipulate** the behaviour of humans. For instance, research has suggested that judges give criminals more lenient sentences after having had their lunch.
- **PASSIVE:** The behaviour of humans **can be manipulated** by external factors. For instance, research has suggested that judges give criminals more lenient sentences after having had their lunch.
- **ACTIVE:** 'Happiness' is a problematic term. We **cannot** easily **define** or **explain** it.
- **PASSIVE:** 'Happiness' is a problematic term. It **cannot** easily **be defined** or **explained**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

SEMI-MODALS: SIMPLE FORMS

- **ACTIVE:** We **need to understand** the causes of childhood obesity.
- **PASSIVE:** The causes of childhood obesity **need to be understood**.
- **ACTIVE:** We **need to paint** the house.
- **PASSIVE:** The house **needs painting / needs to be painted**.
- **ACTIVE:** We **have to answer** the question of whether life forms exist on other planets.
- **PASSIVE:** The question of whether life forms exist on other planets **has to be answered**.
- **ACTIVE:** We **do not have to answer** the question.
- **PASSIVE:** The question **does not have to be answered**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

MODALS: PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

- **ACTIVE:** It is quite frightening to think that, at this very moment, somewhere in the world, prison guards **might/may/could be torturing** prisoners.
- **PASSIVE:** It is quite frightening to think that, at this very moment, somewhere in the world, prisoners **might/may/could be being tortured** by their guards.
- **ACTIVE:** Somebody **should be telling / ought to be telling** you what to do at the moment.
- **PASSIVE:** You **should be being told / ought to be being told** what to do at the moment.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

MODALS: PAST FORMS

- **ACTIVE:** I strongly believe that we **should have eradicated / ought to have eradicated** diseases such as malaria years ago. International bodies have been reluctant to fund health campaigns in poorer tropical countries where such diseases are common.
- **PASSIVE:** I strongly believe that diseases such as malaria **should have been eradicated / ought to have been eradicated** years ago. International bodies have been reluctant to fund health campaigns in poorer tropical countries where such diseases are common.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

MODALS: PAST FORMS

- **ACTIVE:** The terrible wars of the twentieth century **must have killed** literally millions of innocent people.
- **PASSIVE:** Literally millions of innocent people **must have been killed** during the terrible wars of the twentieth century.
- **ACTIVE:** We **could/might/may have saved** much of the rainforest which we have chopped down if governments or their citizens had really cared.
- **PASSIVE:** Much of the rainforest which we have chopped down **could/might/may have been saved** if governments or their citizens had really cared.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

SEMI-MODALS: PAST FORMS

- **ACTIVE:** In the past, teachers **needed/had to teach** children how to write by hand. With the advent of technology, this skill is now far less relevant.
- **PASSIVE:** In the past, children **needed/had to be taught** how to write by hand. With the advent of technology, this skill is now far less relevant.
- **PASSIVE:** In the past, children **needed teaching** how to write by hand. With the advent of technology, this skill is now far less relevant.
- **ACTIVE:** We **didn't need/have to bring** our passports.
- **PASSIVE:** Our passports **didn't need/have to be brought**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

SEMI-MODALS: FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL TENSES

- **ACTIVE:** In the future, we **will need/have to reduce** the amount of carbon which we pump into our atmosphere
- **PASSIVE:** In the future, the amount of carbon which we pump into our atmosphere **will need/have to be reduced**.
- **ACTIVE:** I don't want to move to France because we **would have/need to disrupt** the children's education.
- **PASSIVE:** I don't want to move to France because the children's education **would have/need to be disrupted**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

MODALS WITH PASSIVES

- **PASSIVE:** It **should be mentioned** that extreme weather can seriously affect the economy.
- **PASSIVE:** It **should be noted** that car sales have increased exponentially over recent years.
- **PASSIVE:** It **ought to be stated** that crime rates have fallen recently.
- **PASSIVE:** It **needs to be repeated** that this approach is potentially dangerous.
- **PASSIVE:** It **has to be said** that air quality is deteriorating.
- **PASSIVE:** It **must be emphasized / pointed out** that water supplies are critical to the survival of a community.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Passives

COMPLEX STRUCTURES

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EXPLANATION

- **PASSIVES** are important structures in English.
- We usually form **PASSIVES** with the verb **to be** and a **PAST PARTICIPLE** such as **eaten, gone** or **given**.
- There are many **PASSIVE** forms, including some very complex forms which will impress the IELTS examiner.
- Being able to use **PASSIVES** in your IELTS Writing Test, and being able to recognise **PASSIVES** in the IELTS Reading Test, can be especially useful.
- **PASSIVES** can be used with **complex structures**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

VERBS FOLLOWED BY -ING

- **ACTIVE:** She **admitted/denied/regretted** giving **them** money.
- **PASSIVE:** She **admitted/denied/regretted** being given money **by them**.
- **ACTIVE:** I **recall/remember/recollect** seeing **my boss**.
- **PASSIVE:** I **recall/remember/recollect** being seen **by my boss**.
- **ACTIVE:** We **have started** visiting **my uncle** every weekend.
- **PASSIVE:** We **have started** being visited **by my uncle** every weekend.
- **ACTIVE:** I **appreciate** **you** asking me.
- **PASSIVE:** I **appreciate** being asked **by you**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

LIKES AND DISLIKES

- **ACTIVE:** I like/love/adore/prefer giving presents to friends.
- **PASSIVE:** I like/love/adore/prefer being given presents by friends.
- **ACTIVE:** I enjoy telling colleagues what to do.
- **PASSIVE:** I don't enjoy being told what to do by colleagues.

- **ACTIVE:** Those who like/love others giving them challenges may live longer than those who prefer/enjoy others leaving them in peace.
- **PASSIVE:** Those who like/love being given challenges by others may live longer than those who prefer/enjoy being left in peace by others.
- **ACTIVE:** Most of us love/adore somebody praising us.
- **PASSIVE:** Most of us love/adore being praised by somebody.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

LIKES AND DISLIKES

- **ACTIVE:** Most employees **do not mind** **their bosses asking** them to do some overtime.
- **PASSIVE:** Most employees **do not mind being asked** to do some overtime **by their boss**.
- **ACTIVE:** People **don't like** **others shouting** at them.
- **PASSIVE:** People **don't like being shouted at** **by others**.
- **ACTIVE:** Workers **dislike/hate/detest/loathe/can't stand/can't bear** **their managers criticising** them, especially in front of colleagues.
- **PASSIVE:** Workers **dislike/hate/detest/loathe/can't stand/can't bear** **being criticised by their manager**, especially in front of colleagues.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

VERBS FOLLOWED BY AN INFINITIVE

- **ACTIVE:** We all **intend/aim/plan to beat** our opponents.
- **PASSIVE:** Nobody **intends/plans/aims to be beaten** by their opponents.
- **ACTIVE:** Unfortunately, locals **tend not to welcome** immigrants who arrive in their country.
- **PASSIVE:** Unfortunately, immigrants **tend not to be welcomed** when they arrive in a new country.
- **ACTIVE:** I **want/expect/would like to do** it.
- **PASSIVE:** I **want/expect/would like it to be done**.
- **ACTIVE:** Doctors **agreed to test** the patients.
- **PASSIVE:** The patients **agreed to be tested**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

- **ACTIVE:** We have the right to **expect others to treat** us with respect, even when we are very young or very old.
- **PASSIVE:** We have the right to **expect to be treated** with respect **by others**, even when we are very young or very old.
- **ACTIVE:** As humans, we **want those around us to accept, respect** and **care for** us.
- **PASSIVE:** As humans, we **want to be accepted, respected** and **cared for by those around us**.
- **ACTIVE:** We **would like friends and relatives to help** us.
- **PASSIVE:** We **would like to be helped by friends and relatives**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

VERBS FOLLOWED BY A PREPOSITION

- **ACTIVE:** Although politicians **keep on telling** us that the economic situation is improving, there is little evidence to support this claim.
- **PASSIVE:** Although we **keep on being told** that the economic situation is improving, there is little evidence to support this claim.
- **ACTIVE:** Many employees **look forward to their company offering** them the chance to take early retirement.
- **PASSIVE:** Many employees **look forward to being offered** the chance to take early retirement **by their company**.
- **ACTIVE:** Some schools **insist on children doing** lots of homework.
- **PASSIVE:** Some schools **insist on** lots of homework **being done by children**.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM AFTER PREPOSITIONS

- **ACTIVE:** Before/After somebody **heats** it, the substance is checked for impurities.
- **PASSIVE:** Before/After **being heated**, the substance is checked for impurities.
- **ACTIVE:** During the time **when** unscrupulous factory bosses **make** children work in exceptionally harsh conditions, some of the youngsters exploited as child labourers develop chronic illnesses.
- **PASSIVE:** **Whilst being made** to work in exceptionally harsh conditions by unscrupulous factory bosses, some children exploited as child labourers develop chronic illnesses.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

AFTER PREPOSITIONS

- **ACTIVE:** **When** somebody **tells** them about the dangers associated with drug use, many vow never to use heroin or crack cocaine again.
- **PASSIVE:** **On being told** about the dangers associated with drug use, many vow never to use heroin or crack cocaine again.
- **ACTIVE:** **By joining** the army, many young adults feel they have managed to avoid some of the economic and social difficulties facing their peers.
- **PASSIVE:** **By being recruited** into the army, many young adults feel they have managed to avoid some of the economic and social difficulties facing their peers.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM AFTER PREPOSITIONS

- **ACTIVE:** Despite the fact that experts warn them of the dangers, many people continue to smoke.
- **PASSIVE:** Despite being warned of the dangers, many people continue to smoke.
- **ACTIVE:** Despite the fact that doctors have warned them that they could get cancer, most smokers refuse to give up the habit.
- **PASSIVE:** Despite having been warned that they could get cancer, most smokers refuse to give up the habit.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM **THE FIRST, THE LAST ETC.**

- **ACTIVE:** The **first** FIFA World Cup **which was televised** in colour took place in 1970.
- **PASSIVE:** The **first** FIFA World Cup **to be televised** in colour took place in 1970.
- **ACTIVE:** The **second** person **who was diagnosed** with the Ebola virus was a doctor. Obviously, this shows the risk which medical professionals run when working with patients who have contagious diseases.
- **PASSIVE:** The **second** person **to be diagnosed** with the Ebola virus was a doctor. Obviously, this shows the risk which medical professionals run when working with patients who have contagious diseases.

PASSIVES: HOW TO FORM THEM

THE FIRST, THE LAST ETC.

- **ACTIVE:** The **most recent** country **which was accused** of running a state-sponsored doping programme for its athletes was Russia
- **PASSIVE:** The **most recent** country **to be accused** of running a state-sponsored doping programme for its athletes was Russia.
- **ACTIVE:** The **last** person **who was executed** in the country died in the 1960s.
- **PASSIVE:** The **last** person **to be executed** in the country died in the 1960s.

PASSIVES

TO HAVE/NEED/GET/LIKE/LOVE/WANT SOMETHING DONE

- **PASSIVE:** Affluent families often **have their housework done** by domestic servants. They **have their clothes cleaned**, they **have their meals cooked** and **have their plates and dishes washed**.
- **PASSIVE:** Many large companies **have their accounts scrutinised** by experts who enable them to avoid paying excessive amounts of tax.
- **PASSIVE:** Some cats **love having their ears scratched** but **hate having their tummies rubbed**.
- **PASSIVE:** I **have never had my hair washed** by somebody else.
- **PASSIVE:** Frail and elderly residents of care-homes **need/get their food cooked** and **need/get their beds changed** on a daily basis.
- **PASSIVE:** Voters **want their taxes cut** and **their services improved**.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Passives

WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

EXPLANATION

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- There are many **PASSIVE** forms, including some very complex forms which will impress the IELTS examiner.
- Being able to use **PASSIVES** in your IELTS Writing Test, and being able to recognise **PASSIVES** in the IELTS Reading Test, can be especially useful.
- **PASSIVES** can be used to help you **focus on an object** and can often **make your style more formal**.

PASSIVES

WHEN WE DO NOT KNOW THE SUBJECT

- Most of the famous castles and palaces **were built** during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.
- Wealthier individuals spend a great deal on security and their personal safety; many **have been burgled** and some **have been robbed** at knife-point, and even **kidnapped**.
- During the riots, many windows **were broken** and quite a few cars **were set** on fire.
- A great deal **has been written** about the overuse of antibiotics.

PASSIVES

WHEN YOU WANT TO FOCUS ON THE OBJECT

- **This terrible disease** can easily be caught.
- It is likely that **this natural habitat** will be destroyed.
- **Major international sporting events** are usually organised in richer parts of the world. **These tournaments** and competitions are viewed by millions of spectators.
- **Top international sports-stars** are sponsored by some of the world's leading food manufacturers and technology producers.
- **Top artists** are sometimes criticised by members of the public for being out-of-touch with everyday life.
- **Young children** are often forced to work in terrible conditions by unscrupulous factory-owners.

PASSIVES

WHEN THE SUBJECT IS PEOPLE

- Many sports **are played** and **watched** all over the world. **(by people; by spectators)**
- Fewer newspapers **are read** these days than a decade ago. **(by people; by readers)**
- Solutions to the problems **need to be found**. **(by people; by experts)**
- Obviously, fewer plane journeys **should be made** **(by passengers)** and less plastic **should be bought**. **(by consumers)**
- Children **are** constantly **told** to work hard, and **are tested** all the time. **(by teachers)**
- Experiments **are** only **carried out** **(by scientists)** after it **has been agreed** **(by people in charge)** that they are ethically acceptable.

PASSIVES

TO MAKE YOUR STYLE LOOK FORMAL AND ACADEMIC

- **It should be noted that** very little evidence exists to suggest that prisons are an effective deterrent.
- **It should be stated that**, on average, men earn almost sixty percent more than women doing equivalent work.
- **It ought to be pointed out that** temperatures have risen continuously over the past few summers and rainfall patterns have become increasingly erratic.
- **It needs to be emphasised that** there is no scientific evidence whatsoever to support this assertion.

PASSIVES

TO MAKE YOUR STYLE LOOK FORMAL AND ACADEMIC

- **It must be mentioned that** without poorly-paid manual workers, the economy would probably collapse.
- **It has to be acknowledged/admitted/accepted that** the growth in the popularity of renewable energy sources has led to a reduction in our dependence on fossil fuels.
- **The fact/point that** women continue to be treated unfairly in many areas of life **ought to be highlighted.**
- **The fact/point that** the majority of those living on this planet probably do not enjoy full human rights **needs emphasising/re-iterating / needs to be emphasised/reiterated.**

PASSIVES

TO LET YOU USE THE OLD-NEW SENTENCE STRUCTURE

- Large fast-food manufacturers require **land**.
- **This land** **is** often **purchased** from **governments** in under-developed countries.
- **These governments** **are forced** to sell land due to **the perilous economic circumstances** they face.
- **Their weak economic position** **has been caused by** the forces of globalisation.
- **Globalisation** **has** arguably **been caused by** increased consumer demand for products such as fast-food.

PASSIVES

TO MAKE WRITING SEEM COMPLEX

- If sixteen-year-olds **were given** the right to vote, elections **would probably be won by political parties** which had policies to help young people.
- At this precise moment in time, literally thousands of cattle **are being slaughtered** for meat.
- It is a terrifying thought that we **might be being watched by super-intelligent aliens from other galaxies**.
- It is likely that by 2050 nearly all of our available coal supplies **will have been used up**.

PASSIVES

TO GIVE THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS OR EXPERTS

- It is widely/generally believed that the crime rate is connected to levels of unemployment.
- It is sometimes thought to be the case that children who are encouraged to paint and draw when young are likely to become creative and imaginative adults.
- It is often stated/suggested/argued that drug use causes long-term emotional damage.
- It has been known for centuries that younger males exhibit more aggression than older ones.

PASSIVES

TO GIVE THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS OR EXPERTS

- Tourism **is said to be** one of the country's biggest earners.
- Regular exercise **is thought to be** one of the best ways to reduce stress.
- Prolonged sunbathing **is believed to be** harmful to the skin.
- Having a sedentary lifestyle **is known to be** a major cause of heart disease.
- A lack of role models **is understood (by experts/some/many) to be** one of the main reasons why so few female students opt for careers in science and engineering.
- The invention of the motorcar **is considered/thought/believed/said to have had** more impact on our world than almost anything else.

PASSIVES

IN IELTS TASK 1 WRITING (PROCESS)

- At the beginning of the process, cows **are milked**.
- The milk **is transported** to processing plants as quickly as possible.
- There, the milk **is** either immediately **processed** or **turned** into cheese.
- Cheese products **are packaged** as quickly as possible.
- All products **are driven** to market so that they **can be sold** whilst fresh.
- While the cheese **is being packaged**, milk which **is sold** fresh **is checked** and **prepared** for dispatch to shops.
- When/After the products **have been packed**, they **are transported** immediately to a warehouse and **sorted**.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write them using passive forms:

1. At the beginning of the process somebody mixes the raw materials together and pours them into a mould.
2. Somebody separates the chemicals into two different tubes. Somebody heats one of the tubes and cools the other one. Subsequently, somebody puts the heated liquid into a small container and somebody adds the cooled liquid to acid.
3. Somebody cuts the wood into long thin strips and glues the pieces together.
4. Many people believe that genetic factors play a key role in a child's development.
5. Many people say that effective parenting strategies can significantly improve a child's quality of life.
6. Most people know that developing good thinking skills is probably far more important than simply accumulating knowledge.

ANSWERS

1. At the beginning of the process, the raw materials **are mixed** together and **poured** into a mould.
2. The chemicals **are separated** into two different tubes. One of the tubes **is heated** and the other one **is cooled**. Subsequently, the heated liquid **is put into** a small container and the cooled liquid **is added** to acid.
3. The wood **is cut** into long thin strips and the pieces **are glued** together.
4. It **is** widely **believed** that genetic factors play a key role in a child's development.
5. It **is** often **said** that effective parenting strategies can significantly improve a child's quality of life.
6. It **is** generally **known** that developing good thinking skills is probably far more important than simply accumulating knowledge.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write them using passive forms:

1. People often state that we, as a society, need to educate more engineers, surgeons and psychiatrists and fewer dancers, painters and singers.
2. Most people accept that globalisation has benefitted some people but been distinctly disadvantageous for others.
3. Everybody hopes that we can find a solution to the impending ecological crisis.
4. Literally millions worldwide play football. People first played it in ancient times and people all over the world have played it since the middle of the twentieth century.
5. Some institutions of higher education have granted scholarships to undergraduates from low-income families. The universities have realised that this is the only way they can attract brighter students who are not rich enough to pay tuition fees.
6. In the current economic climate, many employers have asked their staff to take a pay-cut. Other companies have cut their workers hours and in some extreme cases, firms have dismissed employees.

ANSWERS

1. It **is** often **stated** that more engineers, surgeons and psychiatrists and fewer dancers, painters and singers **need to be educated** by our society.
2. It **is** usually **accepted** that globalisation has benefitted some people but been distinctly disadvantageous for others.
3. It **is** universally **hoped** that a solution to the impending ecological crisis **can be found**.
4. Football **is played** by literally millions worldwide. It **was** first **played** in ancient times and **has been played** all over the world since the middle of the twentieth century.
5. Some undergraduates from low-income families **have been granted** scholarships by institutions of higher education. It **has been realised** by the universities that this is the only way they can attract brighter students who are not rich enough to pay tuition fees.
6. In the current economic climate, staff **have been asked** by their employers to take a pay-cut. Other workers **have had** their hours **cut** by companies, and in some extreme cases, employees **have been dismissed** by firms.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write them using passive forms:

1. Every year, some people hold an awards ceremony called the Oscars.
2. Last year, somebody gave more than twenty awards to people in the film industry.
3. Some people have held the Oscars for a number of decades.
4. It is quite likely that people will hold the Oscars for generations to come.
5. People used to hold The British Film Awards before The Oscars, but in recent years, people have held them before The Oscars.
6. We can measure the success of a country's film industry through how many international awards it wins.
7. Nobody could have made 3D movies before the 1980s – nobody had invented important technologies.
8. Nobody likes somebody nominated them for an Oscar but not actually awarding them one.
9. Somebody had to postpone The Oscars in 1938.

ANSWERS

1. Every year, an award ceremony called The Oscars **is held**.
2. Last year, more than twenty awards **were given** to people in the film industry.
3. The Oscars **have been held** for a number of decades.
4. It is quite likely that The Oscars **will be held** for generations to come.
5. British film awards **used to be held** after The Oscars but in recent years they **have been held** before them.
6. The success of a country's film industry **can be measured** through how many international awards it wins.
7. 3D movies **could not have been made** before the 1980s – important technologies **had not been invented**.
8. Nobody **likes being nominated** for an Oscar but not actually **being awarded** one.
9. The Oscars **had to be postponed** in 1938.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write them using passive forms:

1. In the past, somebody gave newspapers the names of winners in advance, if the newspapers promised that they would not publish these names.
2. In the 1940s, somebody sold 1.4 billion cinema tickets in Britain every year, but in recent years the number has been declining sharply.
3. It is quite possible that somebody is making some amazing films at this very moment.
4. The first Oscars ceremony which somebody televised took place in 1953.
5. By the end of this decade, somebody will have screened more than seventy ceremonies live.
6. Most actors and directors love somebody praising them and love somebody recognising their work.
7. Next year, one of the world's best-known directors is going to host the ceremony.
8. In 2000, some Oscars- which somebody was driving from Chicago to LA- vanished. If nobody had found them, somebody would have made new Oscars.
9. Most people dream that somebody will give them an Oscar, or just that somebody will invite them to the ceremony.

ANSWERS

1. In the past, newspapers **were given** the names of winners in advance if they promised that these names **would not be published**.
2. In the 1940s, 1.4 billion cinema tickets **were sold** in Britain every year, but in recent years the number has been declining sharply.
3. It is quite possible that some amazing films **might be being made** at this very moment.
4. The first Oscars ceremony **to be televised** took place in 1953.
5. By the end of this decade, more than seventy ceremonies **will have been screened** live.
6. Most actors and directors **love being praised** and **love having** their work **recognised**.
7. Next year, the ceremony **is going to be hosted** by one of the world's best-known directors.
8. In 2000, some Oscars which **were being driven** from Chicago to LA vanished. If they **had not been found**, new Oscars **would have been made**.
9. Most people **dream of being given** an Oscar, or even of just **being invited** to the ceremony.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to re-write the following sentences using passives:

1. Most students hate it when somebody criticizes them.
Most students hate b_____ c_____.
2. People used to think that the world was flat.
It u_____ t_____ b_____ th_____ that the world was flat.
3. Nobody has used capital punishment in this country for more than fifty years. The last person who was killed in this way died in the 1960s.
Capital punishment h_____ n_____ b_____ u_____ in this country for more than fifty years. The last person t_____ b_____ k_____ in this way died in the 1960s.
4. If somebody used nuclear weapons, it would destroy our civilization.
If nuclear weapons w_____ u_____, our civilization w_____ b_____ d_____.
5. We should support children better.
Children sh_____ b_____ s_____ better.

ANSWERS

1. Most students **hate being criticized**.
2. **It used to be thought** that the world was flat.
3. Capital punishment **has not been used** in this country for more than fifty years. The last person **to be killed** in this way died in the 1960s.
4. If nuclear weapons **were used**, our civilization **would be destroyed**.
5. Children **should be supported** better.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to put the words in the correct order to form **PASSIVE** sentences:

1. planet universe used It be of our at centre the believed was that to the
2. but Most us detest being praised criticised love of being
3. be extremely first were to built planes The dangerous
4. global taken The be of to seriously warming issue needs
5. average If increased were diseases be life our found, could for cures expectancy dramatically deadly most

ANSWERS

1. It used to be believed that our planet was at the centre of the universe.
2. Most of us love being praised but detest being criticised.
3. The first planes to be built were extremely dangerous.
4. The issue of global warming needs to be taken seriously.
5. If cures for our most deadly diseases were found, average life expectancy could be increased dramatically.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write them using passive verb forms. Be careful! You need to change two verb forms in every sentence:

EXAMPLE: People often say that parents need to support their children as much as possible.

ANSWER: It is often said that children need to be supported by their parents as much as possible.

1. People generally believe that we should admire and respect scientists.
2. Most people think that it is beneficial if somebody teaches you a foreign language.
3. Experts often state that schools should teach badly-behaved pupils in separate classes.
4. Scientists say that parents should not smack their children.
5. Many people believe that we should not send motorists who speed to prison.

ANSWERS

1. It is generally believed that scientists should be admired and respected.
2. It is widely thought that being taught a foreign language is beneficial.
3. It is often stated by experts that badly-behaved pupils should be taught in separate classes.
4. It is said that children should not be smacked by their parents.
5. It is believed that motorists who speed should not be sent to prison.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following active sentences. Try to turn them into passive sentences:

EXAMPLE

ACTIVE: In order to deal with the issue of youth unemployment, the government could ask older worker to retire early.

PASSIVE: In order to deal with the issue of youth unemployment, older workers **could be asked to retire** early.

1. ACTIVE: The government should make adults attend parenting classes before they have children.
PASSIVE: **Adults should be...**
2. ACTIVE: Using technology in the classroom might positively affect children's exam results
PASSIVE: **Children's exam results might...**
3. ACTIVE: We cannot expect children to behave in school unless their classes are inspiring and relevant.
PASSIVE: **Children cannot...**
4. ACTIVE: We have to do something to reduce the amount of plastic which we dump in our oceans.
PASSIVE: **Something has...**
5. ACTIVE: Those in power need to increase funding for public healthcare.
PASSIVE: **Funding for public healthcare...**

ANSWERS

1. Adults **should be made to attend** parenting classes before they have children.
2. Children's exam results **might be positively affected** by using technology in the classroom.
3. Children **cannot be expected** to behave in school unless their classes are inspiring and relevant.
4. Something **has to be done** to reduce the amount of plastic **being dumped** in our oceans.
5. Funding for public healthcare **needs to be increased**.