

A I was offered .../ we were given ... etc.

Some verbs can have two objects. For example, **give**:

- My grandfather gave me this watch.
object 1 object 2

It is possible to make two passive sentences:

- ☐ I **was given** this watch (by my grandfather). or
This watch **was given** to me (by my grandfather).

Other verbs which can have two objects are:

ask offer pay show tell

When we use these verbs in the passive, most often we begin with the *person*:

- ☐ **I've been offered** the job, but I don't think I want it. (= somebody has offered me the job)
- ☐ **You will be given** plenty of time to decide. (= we will give you plenty of time)
- ☐ I didn't see the original document, but **I was shown** a copy. (= somebody showed me a copy)
- ☐ Tim has an easy job – **he's paid a lot of money** to do very little. (= somebody pays him a lot)



B I don't like being ...

The passive of **doing/seeing** etc. is **being done / being seen** etc. Compare:

active: I don't like **people telling me** what to do.

passive: I don't like **being told** what to do.

- ☐ I remember **being taken** to the zoo when I was a child.
(= I remember **somebody taking** me to the zoo)
- ☐ Steve hates **being kept** waiting. (= he hates **people keeping** him waiting)
- ☐ We climbed over the wall without **being seen**. (= without **anybody seeing** us)

I was born ...

We say '**I was** born ...' (*not* I am born):

- ☐ I was born in Chicago.
- ☐ Where **were** you **born**? (*not* Where are you born?) } *past*

but

- How many babies **are born** every day? *present*

D get

You can use **get** for the passive:

- ☐ There was a fight, but nobody **got hurt**. (= nobody **was** hurt)
- ☐ I don't **get invited** to many parties. (= I'm not invited)
- ☐ I'm surprised Liz **didn't get offered** the job. (= Liz **wasn't offered** the job)

We use **get** only when things *happen*. For example, you cannot use **get** in these sentences:

- ☐ Jessica **is liked** by everybody. (*not gets liked* – this is not a ‘happening’)
- ☐ Peter was a mystery man. Very little **was known** about him. (*not got known*)

We use **get** mainly in informal spoken English. You can use **be** in all situations.

We also use **get** in the following expressions (which are not passive in meaning):

get married, get divorced

get lost (= not know where you are)

get dressed (= put on your clothes)

get changed (= change your clothes)

Exercises

44.1 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb.

- I tried to contact Tom.
I called his office but I was told (tell) that he was in a meeting.
- Amy retired from her job recently.
She (give) a present by her colleagues.
- I didn't know there was a meeting yesterday.
I (not / tell) about it.
- Sarah's salary is very low.
I don't understand why she (pay) so little.
- You will need to use this machine.
Have you (show) how it works?
- I had an interview for a job recently. It wasn't easy.
I (ask) some questions that were very hard for me to answer.
- They didn't tell us much about the project.
We (not / give) enough information.
- I was surprised to get the job I applied for.
I didn't expect (offer) it.

44.2 Complete the sentences using **being + the following verbs (in the correct form):**

bite give invite ~~keep~~ knock down stick treat

- Steve hates being kept waiting.
- We went to the wedding without
- I like giving presents and I also like them.
- It's a busy road and I don't like crossing it. I'm afraid of
- How do you avoid by mosquitoes?
- I'm an adult. I don't like like a child.
- You can't do anything about in a traffic jam.

44.3 Complete the sentences using **get or **got** + the following verbs (in the correct form):**

ask break ~~hurt~~ pay steal sting stop use

- There was a fight, but nobody got hurt.
- Alex by a bee while he was sitting in the garden.
- These tennis courts don't very often. Not many people want to play here.
- I used to have a bike, but it a few months ago.
- Rachel works hard, but she doesn't very much.
- Please pack these things very carefully. I don't want anything to
- People often want to know what my job is. I that question a lot.
- Last night I by the police as I was driving home. One of the lights on my car wasn't working.

44.4 Complete the sentences.

- I've been offered the job, but I don't think I'll accept it.
- I don't get invited to many parties.
- Which year you born in?
- I haven't been any information yet.
- I didn't know the way, so I got
- He doesn't like interrupted when he's speaking.
- How did the window broken? What happened?
- She's a voluntary worker. She get paid.
- I born in a small town in the north of the country.
- We had to do what we did. We given any choice.