

FCE MINI LESSON

LET'S LEARN ABOUT:
PASSIVES



The passive is formed from the verb *to be* + past participle (*done/eaten/cleaned*, etc.).

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
They washed all the dirty plates by hand.	All the dirty plates were washed by hand.
We've packed all our cases ready for the move.	Our cases have all been packed ready for the move.
It's helpful when people keep you well informed	It's helpful when I'm kept well informed.
The walls are not soundproof, so you can hear the neighbour's alarm in the morning.	The neighbour's alarm can be heard in the morning, as the walls are not soundproof.

We use the passive when:

- what happens is more important than who does it:
The roof on our holiday cottage has been replaced, so we can stay there in the spring now.
- we don't know who or what does/did something:
My passport and my driving licence have been removed from the safe in my hotel room.
- we don't need to say who or what does/did something because it's obvious from the situation or context:
Finally, the new international fishing regulations were accepted. (obviously by a government or by the fishing industry)
- when writing in an official style:
A double room has been reserved for you for two nights on the 14th and 15th of May. We respectfully inform you that the room must be vacated at 11 am on the day of departure.

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In informal English we can sometimes use *get* instead of *be* to form the passive, especially when we want to say that something bad happened to someone or something:

Our fridge-freezer got damaged during the move. (Formal: *Our fridge-freezer was damaged.*)

She got seriously injured while climbing in the Alps. (She was seriously injured.)

He got fined £100 for speeding.

The passive with *get* is not possible with state verbs: *The chalet in the Swiss Alps got owned by a famous footballer.*

The chalet is owned by a famous footballer.

ACTIVITIES!

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN (1) _____
(CREATE) BY THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LAST YEAR. IT (2) _____
_____ (DESIGN) TO BE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD RELAX
AND ENJOY NATURE. THE LAND FOR THE GARDEN (3) _____
(DONATE) BY A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER WHO BELIEVED IN
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

BEFORE THE GARDEN COULD BE OPENED, A LOT OF WORK (4) _____
_____ (NEED) TO BE DONE. TREES (5) _____ (PLANT) ALONG THE
PERIMETER, AND FLOWER BEDS (6) _____ (ARRANGE) IN
VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE GARDEN. BENCHES (7) _____
(INSTALL) IN SHADED AREAS SO THAT VISITORS COULD SIT
AND ADMIRE THE SURROUNDINGS.

THE MOST EXCITING PART FOR THE CHILDREN WAS THE
PLAYGROUND AREA, WHICH (8) _____ (EQUIP) WITH SWINGS,
SLIDES, AND CLIMBING FRAMES. SAFETY MEASURES (9) _____
(TAKE) SERIOUSLY, AND THE EQUIPMENT (10) _____ (CHECK)
REGULARLY TO ENSURE IT WAS SAFE FOR USE.

NOW, THE GARDEN IS A BELOVED SPOT IN OUR COMMUNITY
WHERE FAMILIES COME TOGETHER, FRIENDSHIPS ARE FORMED,
AND THE BEAUTY OF NATURE IS APPRECIATED BY ALL.

ANSWERS

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN (1) WAS CREATED (CREATE) BY THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LAST YEAR.

IT (2) WAS DESIGNED (DESIGN) TO BE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD RELAX AND ENJOY NATURE.

THE LAND FOR THE GARDEN (3) WAS DONATED (DONATE) BY A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER WHO BELIEVED IN SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

BEFORE THE GARDEN COULD BE OPENED, A LOT OF WORK (4) NEEDED TO BE DONE (NEED).

TREES (5) WERE PLANTED (PLANT) ALONG THE PERIMETER, AND FLOWER BEDS (6) WERE ARRANGED (ARRANGE) IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE GARDEN.

BENCHES (7) WERE INSTALLED (INSTALL) IN SHADED AREAS SO THAT VISITORS COULD SIT AND ADMIRE THE SURROUNDINGS.

THE MOST EXCITING PART FOR THE CHILDREN WAS THE PLAYGROUND AREA, WHICH (8) WAS EQUIPPED (EQUIP) WITH SWINGS, SLIDES, AND CLIMBING FRAMES.

SAFETY MEASURES (9) WERE TAKEN (TAKE) SERIOUSLY, AND THE EQUIPMENT (10) WAS CHECKED (CHECK) REGULARLY TO ENSURE IT WAS SAFE FOR USE.