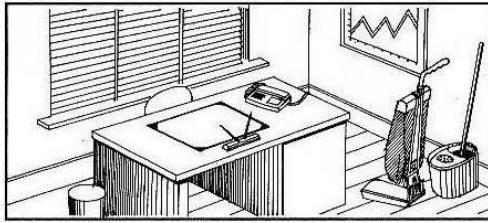


# The passive

1



The office **is cleaned** every day.

The office **was cleaned** yesterday.

Compare active and passive:

Somebody **cleans** the office every day. (active)

The office **is cleaned** every day. (passive)

Somebody **cleaned** the office yesterday. (active)

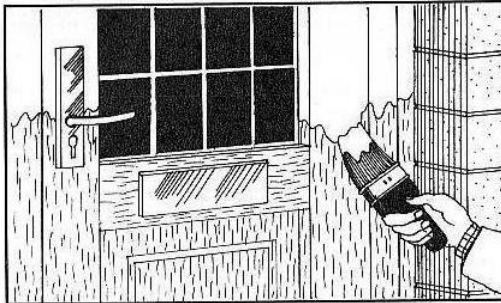
The office **was cleaned** yesterday. (passive)

The passive is:

			<i>past participle</i>
<i>present simple</i>	<b>am/is/are</b>	(not)	<b>cleaned done</b>
<i>past simple</i>	<b>was/were</b>		<b>invented built</b>
			<b>injured taken etc.</b>

2

**is/are being ...** (*present continuous passive*)

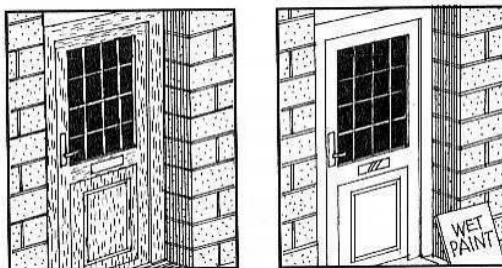


Somebody **is painting** the door. (active)

The door **is being painted**. (passive)

3

**has/have been ...** (*present perfect passive*)



BEFORE

NOW

Somebody **has painted** the door. (active)

The door **has been painted**. (passive)

4

The passive can be used with every single tense, analyse the following examples:

### Active

They built this bridge in 1975.  
 Somebody will repair this machine.  
 They were watching us.  
 I have written ten letters.

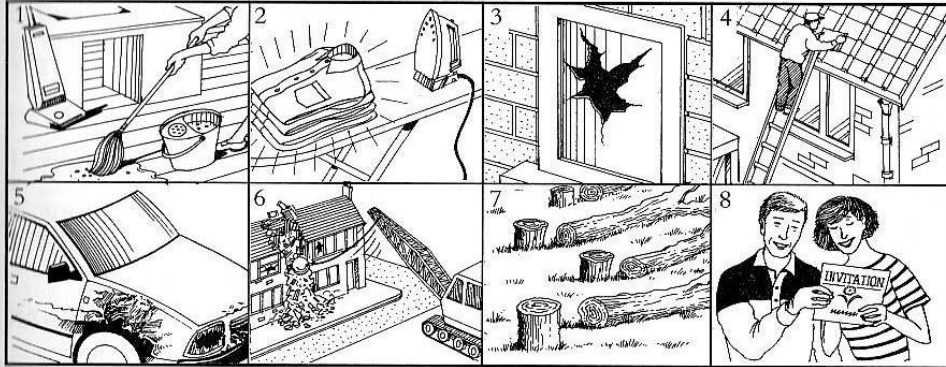
### Passive

This bridge was built in 1975.  
 This machine will be repaired.  
 We were being watched.  
 Ten letters have been written.

# The passive, exercises

1)

Look at the pictures. What is happening or what has happened? Use the present continuous (is/are being ...) or the present perfect (has/have been ...).



- 1 (the office / clean) The office is being cleaned.  
 2 (the shirts / iron) The shirts have been ironed.  
 3 (the window / break) The window .....  
 4 (the roof / repair) The roof .....  
 5 (the car / damage) .....  
 6 (the houses / knock / down) .....  
 7 (the trees / cut / down) .....  
 8 (they / invite / to a party) .....

2) Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form, active or passive:

Here are the local news for Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Last night in Cowford many trees (blow) were blown down in the storm. One tree (fall) \_\_\_\_\_ across the main road in Crowford. It (take) \_\_\_\_\_ away by the fire service during the night. Heavy rain also (cause) \_\_\_\_\_ problems on the roads. Some roads (cover) \_\_\_\_\_ by half a metre of water. Many motorists (leave) their cars and (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ home. Now over to our reporter, Carol Black. Carol, What's happening?

Well, the situation this morning is better, and nearly back to normal. The last few cars (remove) \_\_\_\_\_ by the emergency services at the moment. And I can see the telephone engineers at work. The broken lines (repair) \_\_\_\_\_. The traffic (move) \_\_\_\_\_ now \_\_\_\_\_ in and out of the town along the main roads.

Thank you Carol. And Now one piece of good news.

Yesterday evening, a black BMW (steal) \_\_\_\_\_ from outside Mr Simpson's home. Mr Simpson (telephone) \_\_\_\_\_ the police. Later that evening, the car (see) \_\_\_\_\_ in the High street by Mr Simpson's wife Laura. It was outside the Red Lion hotel. The keys were in the car, so she (drive) \_\_\_\_\_ it home! The police (look) \_\_\_\_\_ for a careless thief!

3) Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences:

The washing machine was broken but it's OK now. It \_\_\_\_\_ (repair)  
 The washing machine \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) yesterday afternoon.  
 A factory is a place where things \_\_\_\_\_ (make)  
 How old are these houses? When \_\_\_\_\_ (they/build?)  
 - \_\_\_\_\_ (the computer/use?) at the moment?  
 -Yes, Jill is using it.