The passive voice is formed by the verb BE (in any tense) and the past participle of the main verb. Remember that regular past participles are formed by adding –ed to the verb, whereas irregular past participles are those of the 3rd column.

**Sujeto + Be + Past Participle + By-agent**

The building **was built** in 1997 by Calatrava

This film **has been directed** by Tim Burton

The passive voice is much more common in English than in Spanish, and we frequently translate it as an active form or impersonal form of the verb. We use the passive voice when we want to focus on the action, not the agent, and also when the agent is obvious or unknown. In these cases, it can be omitted

The burglar was arrested **(by the police)** as soon as he left the house

This car was bought **(by him)** three years ago.

When we want to change active sentences into passive ones, we follow these steps:

**ACTIVE VOICE**

Direct object

Active verb

Direct Subject

**PASSIVE VOICE**

Passive subject

Passive verb

By – agent

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<tr>
<th>Somebody</th>
<th>cleans</th>
<th>this house</th>
<th>everyday</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This house</td>
<td>is cleaned</td>
<td>(by somebody)</td>
<td>everyday</td>
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</table>
Some verbs can have two objects, such as **ask, give, offer, pay, show, teach, tell**

*My mum gave *me a book* for my birthday*

\[
\downarrow \downarrow \\
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\]

In these cases, it is possible to make **two sentences** into the passive voice, depending on whether we choose the indirect or the direct object as the Subject for the passive sentence.

* *I was given a book*

* A book was given to *me*

When we use these verbs is more frequent to use the indirect object (person) as passive subject.

*I was offered the job but I refused*

*The men will be paid £400 for their work*

*Have you been shown the new machine?*


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<tr>
<th>EXAMPLES OF VERB CHANGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present simple</td>
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<td>Pres continuous</td>
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<td>Past simple</td>
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<td>Past continuous</td>
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<td>Present perfect</td>
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<td>Past perfect</td>
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<td>Future will</td>
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<td>Fut. be going to</td>
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<td>Modals</td>
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We use the causative when we refer to an action that is done for us by someone else. It means that we caused the action to happen, but we didn’t do it ourselves. This is, we paid, asked or persuaded someone else to do it. It can appear in most verbal tenses. It is formed with the verbs **have** / **get** and there is no difference between them, although **get** is more informal and, therefore, more used in spoken English.

**Subject + have / get + object + past participle**

- *He is having the scene filmed in India*

- *I got my hair cut last week*

The structure has a passive sense because the object which appears in the middle receives the action of the verb in past participle, but it is usually translated in the active voice.

- *You should have your car checked every year*

- *Deberías revisar el coche todos los años*

There are other types of causative sentences formed with **have** / **let** / **make** which are followed by a person instead of an object, and a verb in its base form (not past participle)

**Subject + have / let / make + person + verb**

- *I had the electrician look at my broken light*

- *John let me drive his new car*

- *The teacher made him apologize for what he said*

We can also use **get** in this way but, then, the verb has to be accompanied by **to**. Sometimes, this causative has the feeling that we needed to convince someone to do something, while the other ones are neutral.

**Subject + get + person + to verb**

- *She gets her son to do his homework every afternoon*