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Функциональная грамматика английского языка

**Методические указания по теме
«Функциональные особенности страдательного залога в
английском языке»**

**Для студентов специальностей
1-02 03 06 01 «Английский язык. Немецкий язык»,
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Введение

Целью методических указаний является предоставление помощи студентам в овладении функциональными особенностями страдательного залога в английском языке. Особое внимание уделяется пассивным структурам с глаголами *have*, *get*, а также эргативным глаголам. Данная разработка может также использоваться в курсе практической грамматики при изучении темы «Страдательный залог». Методические указания адресованы студентам специальностей 1-02 03 06 01 «Английский язык. Немецкий язык», 1-02 03 06 03 «Английский язык. Французский язык» и могут быть использованы как во время аудиторных занятий, так и при самостоятельной работе.

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Functional features of the Passive Voice

The use of the passive

In English, the topic or subject matter is commonly at the beginning of the sentence, and new information about the subject is normally at the end. Here are two paragraphs. One is about the scientist J. J. Thomson, and the other is about the electron.

Thomson, Sir Joseph John
(1846 – 1940)

British physicist and mathematician and head of a group of researchers at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. Thomson discovered the electron. He is regarded as the founder of modern physics.

Electron

A subatomic particle and one of the basic constituents of matter. The electron was discovered by J. J. Thomson. It is found in all atoms and contains the smallest known negative electrical charge.

Compare these two sentences, one from each paragraph.

Thomson discovered the electron. **The electron** was discovered by Thomson.

The sentences have the same meaning, but they have different topics: they are about different things. The topic of the first sentence is *Thomson*, and the topic of the second is *the electron*. The topic is the starting point of the sentence and is usually the subject.

When the subject is the agent (the person or thing doing the action), then the verb is active (*discovered*). When the subject is not the agent, then the verb is passive (*was discovered*). The choice between active and passive is really about whether the subject is the agent or not, whether we are talking about someone (*Thomson*) doing something, or about something (*the electron*) that the action is directed at. Note that *the electron* is object of the active sentence and subject of the passive sentence.

A sentence contains a topic and also new information about the topic. The new information usually comes at or near the end of the sentence.

*Thomson discovered **the electron**.*

The topic is *Thomson*. The new information is that he discovered the electron. *The electron* is the important piece of new information, the point of interest.

The new information can be the agent.

*The electron was discovered **by Thomson**.*

Here *the electron* is the topic. The new information is that its discoverer was Thomson. *Thomson* is the point of interest, and it comes at the end of the sentence in a phrase with *by*.

In a passive sentence the point of interest can be other information such as time, place, manner or instrument.

*The electron was discovered **in 1897**.*

*The electron was discovered **at Cambridge**.*

*The gas should be lit **carefully**.*

*The gas should be lit **with a match**.*

Passive sentences with an agent

An agent is a doer, the person or thing that performs the action indicated by the verb. **By** + agent in passive constructions tells us who or what did something.

*The window was broken **by the boy who lives opposite**.*

*The window was broken **by a stone**.*

By + agent is often used with the passive of verbs like **build, compose, damage, design, destroy, discover, invent, make, wreck, write**.

Note how a subject-question in the active is often answered by a passive, so that the important information is emphasized by being at the end.

*Who composed that piece? - **It was composed by Mozart**.*

*What destroyed the village? - **It was destroyed by a bomb**.*

With is often used with an agent, especially after past participles such as **crammed, crowded, filled, packed**.

*During the World Cup our streets **were filled with football fans**.*

Compare **by** + agent and **with** (means/method)

*He was killed **by a falling stone**. (accidental)*

*He was killed **with a knife**. (deliberate)*

Passive sentences without an agent

In a passive sentence we mention the agent only if it is important new information. There is often no need to mention it.

A day in the life of the world

Every day nine million cigarettes are smoked. In America 10,000 crimes are committed. In Russia 1.3 million telegrams are sent. 200,000 tons of fish are caught and 7,000 tons of wool are sheared off sheep.

The agent may not be relevant to the message.

A large number of Sherlock Holmes films have been made.

The atom was regarded as solid until the electron was discovered in 1897.

The makers of the films and the discoverer of the electron are not relevant. The sentences are about the number of films and the time of the discovery.

Sometimes we do not know the identity of the agent.

My biker was stolen.

The shop window was smashed.

The flowers were brought.

His car has been scratched.

Typical contexts for the passive

We can use the passive in speech, but it is more common in writing, especially in the impersonal style of textbooks and reports.

To describe industrial and scientific processes

The ore usually dug out of the ground.

The paint is then pumped into a large tank, where it is thinned.

If sulphur is heated, a number of changes can be seen.

To describe historical and social processes

A new political party was formed.

Thousands of new homes have been built.

A lot of money is given to help the hungry.

Official rules and procedures

The service is provided under a contract.

This book must be returned to the library by the date above.

Application should be made in writing.

Headlines, advertisements, notices

Kennedy assassinated!
Trade agreement broken!
Petrol coupons accepted
All goods greatly reduced!

When it is not necessary to mention the doer of the action as it is obvious who he is

The streets are swept every day.
Your hand will be X-rayed.
The rubbish hasn't been collected.

When we don't know who did the action.

The minister was murdered.
My car has been moved.
I've been told that...

Verbs which cannot be passive

An intransitive verb cannot be passive. These sentences have no passive equivalent.

*Something **happened**. He slept **soundly**. The cat **ran** away.*

But most phrasal and prepositional verbs which have an object can be passive.

*We ran over a cat./The cat **was run** over.*

Some state verbs cannot be passive, e.g. *be, belong, exist, have (=own), lack, resemble, seem, suit*. These sentences have no passive equivalent.

*Tom **has** a guitar. The building **seemed** empty.*

Some verbs can be either action verbs or state verbs, e.g. *measure, weigh, fit, cost*.

They can be passive only when they are action verbs.

Action and active: *The decorator **measured** the wall.*

Action and passive: *The wall **was measured** by the decorator.*

State: *The wall **measured** three metres.*

But some state verbs can be passive, e.g. *believe, intend, know, like, love, mean, need, own, understand, want*.

*The building **is owned** by an American company.*
*Old postcards **are wanted** by collectors.*

Tenses and aspects in the passive

The Passive Voice is formed by means of the auxiliary verb **to be** in the required form and **Participle II** of the notional transitive verb. The uses of tenses in the Active and in the Passive Voice are the same.

Indefinite: Present New schools **are built** every year.
 Past This school **was built** a month ago.
 Future A new school **will be built** in our village in spring.

Perfect: Present The school **has been built** this month.
 Past The school **had been built** by the 1st of September.
 Future I hope the school **will have been built** by the 1st of September.

Continu Present A new school **is being built** in our street.
ous: Past The school **was still being built** when I came back.

To express an action going on at a definite moment in the future only the Future Continuous Active is possible. To denote an action which began before a definite moment in the present, past or future, and continued up to that moment, the Present, Past and Future Perfect Continuous Active are generally used.

Uses of the Passive Voice peculiar to the English language

The verbs *accord, advise, allow, ask, award, deny, envy, forbid, forgive, ,give, grant, offer, order, pay, prescribe, promise, refuse, show , teach, tell* are used in the Passive Voice. These verbs always take an object expressed by a noun or an infinitive. The action expressed by the Passive Predicate passes on to the subject and the object.

He was granted a ten days' leave.

Has he been shown the documents?

The patient was prescribed a strict diet?

The Passive Voice is possible with intransitive verbs used with prepositions: *account for, agree upon, allude to, arrive at, call for, call upon, comment upon, count upon, depend on, dispose of, fire at, hear of, insist on, interfere with, laugh at, listen to, look after, look at ,look down*

upon, look up, provide for, put up at, put up with, read to, refer to, rely on, run over, send for, speak about (of), stare at, talk about (to, over).

*At last an agreement **was arrived at**.*

*Her strange behaviour **was largely commented upon**.*

*The article **is often referred to**.*

*Mike **was looked up to** by all the boys.*

(*send for* can be used only in connection with people).

*The doctor **was sent for**.*

*The secretary **will be sent for**.*

*A car **was sent for**.*

*But: Somebody **was sent to fetch the books**.*

The following verbal phraseological units can be used in the Passive Voice:

To find fault with, to lose sight of, to make fun of, to make use of, to pay attention to, to put an end to, to set fire to, to take notice of, to take care of.

*Mary **is always found fault with**.*

*Soon the bus **was lost sight of**.*

*His remarks **were taken no notice of**.*

*The argument **was put an end to** by the professor.*

Quite peculiar is the case with the intransitive verbs to live, to sleep, to sit.

*The bed **was not slept in**.*

*The room **is not lived in**.*

*The chair **has not been sat on**.*

Modal verbs in the passive.

We can use the passive with a modal verb.

*Stamps **can be bought** at any post office.*

*Animals **should really be seen** in their natural habitat.*

*Meals **have to be prepared** every day.*

*Many things that **used to be done** by hand are now done by machine.*

A modal verb can also go with the perfect and the passive together.

*I **can't find** that newspaper. It **must have been thrown away**.*

*The plane **might have been delayed** by the fog.
This bill **ought to have been paid** weeks ago.*

The Passive with get

In colloquial speech we sometimes form the passive with *get* rather than with *be*.

*The vase **got broken** when we moved.*

*We **get paid** monthly.*

*It was so hot that my shoulders **were getting burnt**.*

*If you don't lock your bike, it **might get stolen**.*

The passive with *get* expresses action and change, not a state. It often refers to something happening by accident, unexpectedly or incidentally. We do not use *get* for a major, planned action.

In simple tenses we use the auxiliary *do* in negatives and questions.

*I forgot to leave the dustbin out, so it **didn't get emptied**.*

*How often **do** these **get cleaned**?*

We also use *get* + passive participle in some idiomatic expressions.

*There wasn't enough time to **get washed**. (wash oneself)*

Such expressions are: *get washed, get shaved get dressed, get changed, get engaged, get married, get divorced; get started (start), get lost (lose one's way).*

The Passive compared with adjectival participles

Many words such as *broken, interested, shut, worried*, can be used either as adjectives or as past participles in passive constructions. A difference can be noted between:

*I was **worried** about you all night. (adjective: a state)*

*I was **worried by** mosquitoes all night. (passive: dynamic verb)*

If the word is an adjective, it cannot be used with *by* + agent and cannot be transposed into a sentence in the active.

The Passive with verbs of “saying and ‘believing’

With these verbs the following passive constructions are used:

1 **It** (+ passive + that-clause) with verbs like *agree, allege, arrange, assume, believe, consider, decide, declare, discover, expect, fear, feel, find, hope, imagine, know, observe, presume, prove, report, say, show, suggest, suppose, think, understand*:

It is said that there is plenty of oil off our coast.

It is feared that many lives have been lost in the train crash.

2 **There** (+ passive + **to be** + complement) with a limited selection of verbs:

acknowledge, allege, believe, consider, fear, feel, know, presume, report, say, suppose, think, understand:

There is said to be plenty of oil off our coast.

There are known to be thousands of different species of beetles.

3 Subject other than it (+ passive + to-infinitive) with a few verbs: *acknowledge, allege, believe, consider, declare, know, recognize, report, say, suppose, think, understand*:

Mandy is said to be some kind of secret agent.

Turner was considered to be a genius even in his lifetime.

Homeopathic remedies are believed to be very effective.

Jane is said to know all there is to know about chimpanzees.

Exercise 1. Define the topic and new information in each sentence. Transform from Passive into Active if possible; define the topic and new information in the transformed sentences.

1. The plane crashed in Thailand.
2. Wheat is grown in America.
3. The house was completely destroyed by fire.
4. An earthquake shook the city of Los Angeles.
5. Radium was discovered by Marie Curie.
6. I have knitted myself a warm sweater.
7. They finished building the new motorway last month.
8. Satham was born in India.
9. Carl Lewis has won several Olympic medals.
10. The opera "Carmen" was written by Bizet.

Exercise 2. Fill in the correct passive forms.

1. Newspapers ... (sell) in our local supermarket every day.

2. I didn't go to the wedding because I ... (not invite).
3. Many years ago it ... (think) that diseases (spread) by the air.
4. I wonder who ... (choose) as party leader in the next election.
5. As we speak, help ... (send) to the areas of famine in Somalia.
6. We couldn't use the offices because the floors ... (polish) at the time.
7. None of the furniture ... (move) since we last visited the house.
8. I thought all the dishes ... (wash) before I left.
9. The electricity was cut off because the bill ... (not pay).
10. While the witnesses ... (question), the stolen car (find).
11. Phone up about the car advertisement in the paper! I hope it ... (not sell) yet.
12. ... (all these clothes/design) by Max Mara?
13. He ... (think) to be a very talented artist.
14. Whales ... (must protect) by an international ban on whaling.
15. The English Channel ... (cross) first by Louis Bleriot.

Exercise 3. Open the brackets. Use Active or Passive Voice.

1. The sound-track of a film (add) after they finish the filming.
(Present Simple)
2. They (sell) tickets for the concert at the box office all last week.
(Past Progressive)
3. Julia (got) to do some shopping. (Present Perfect Simple)
4. The university (publish) the exam results next week. ((Future Simple)
5. When we reached the airport, we found that the flight (cancel). (Past Perfect Simple)
6. Graham Greene, the world famous writer, (die) in 1991. (Past Simple)
7. Why (these letters/not send)? (Present Perfect Simple)
8. The "greenhouse effect" (study) all over the world now. (Present Progressive)
9. The management (not able) to solve this problem. (Present Simple)
10. The BBC (open) Radio One in 1969. (Past Simple)
11. Madame Tussaud's (be) a very famous wax museum in London.
(Present Simple)
12. In 1990 a concert (hold) in London as a tribute to Nelson Mandela.
(Past Simple)

Exercise 4. Put the sentences into the Passive if possible.

1. The UN is sending food to the starving refugees.
2. They will bury the climber at the foot of Mount Everest.
3. IMB has sold computers all over the world.
4. You must sterilize a baby's bottle to kill germs.
5. They first developed video in the early 1980s.
6. Several Middle Eastern countries are considering joint water projects.
7. John Logie Baird produced the first television pictures in 1926.
8. The tourists arrived at the Statue of Liberty early in the morning.
9. To make tea, you must boil the water and pour it onto the tea-leaves.
10. She lives in Lima in Peru.
11. Martha Graham, a forerunner of modern ballet, retired from the stage at the age of 75.
12. The mechanics were fixing my car when I telephoned.
13. They crush sugar-cane in order to release the sugary juice.
14. A strict caste system still exists in India.
15. Lorca, the great Spanish dramatist and poet, died during the Spanish Civil War.

Exercise 5. Decide which sentence is more appropriate.

1. People speak Hebrew in Israel.
Hebrew is spoken in Israel.
Hebrew is spoken in Israel by people.
2. Christian Dior designed this new collection.
This new collection was designed.
This new collection was designed by Christian Dior.
3. One of the daily newspapers will publish the results on Monday.
The results will be published on Monday.
The results will be published by one of the daily newspapers on Monday.
4. Oxford University has accepted my application.
My application has been accepted.
My application has been accepted by Oxford University.

5. The office is sending out this year's catalogues.
This year's catalogues are being sent out.
This year's catalogues are being sent out by the office.
6. Soaking a bloodstain in salt water removes it.
A bloodstain is removed.
A bloodstain is removed by soaking it in salt water.
7. A thief had stolen all the jewellery and furs.
All the jewellery and furs have been stolen.
All the jewellery and furs have been stolen by a thief.
8. The Mafia assassinated an Italian judge.
An Italian judge was assassinated.
An Italian judge was assassinated by the Mafia.

Exercise 6. Tick the sentences in which the agent is necessary.

1. Letters are delivered to my house every day by the postman.
2. This painting was done by a chimpanzee.
3. Are the customers being served by a salesgirl?
4. The moon was first reached by an American.
5. Was the dog fed by anyone while I was out?
6. Our dinner is being prepared by master chef Luigi.
7. Has the floor been polished by anyone yet?
8. They had been advised by their Member of Parliament to take the case to the High Court.

Exercise 7. Write two or three passive statements about the following.

1. The city I live in: Gomel
Many new houses have been built in Gomel since 1990.
2. Finding a flat as a university student.
The flat must be located near the university.
3. Tourism in my country.

Tourists are given a discount on everything they buy.

4. My school.

My school was founded in 1936.

5. Our end-of-year party.

Speeches will be given early in the evening.

6. Getting ready to start a new job.

I was interviewed by the boss last week.

Exercise 8. Change into Passive. Use two variants if possible.

1. Harvard University will offer him a scholarship.

2. A taxi driver gave the wounded a free ride to town.

3. They have sent the surgeon to the USA to learn a new surgical technique.

4. The insurance company paid me the money for my car.

5. They showed us around Luxor while we were in Egypt.

Exercise 9. Put the following sentences into the Passive.

1. He turned down the offer of a promotion.

2. The bus picked up the pupils from the school.

3. The architect showed us around the new complex.

4. The driver ran a drunk man over.

5. The government hushed up the whole affair.

6. Security took the suitcase off the plane.

Exercise 10. Change into Passive. Mind modal verbs.

1. You should inform the police immediately.

2. We must pay our telephone bill before Friday.

3. Scientists can't explain the death of dolphins off our coastline.

4. We ought to invite only close friends to our party.

5. We have to print this book in Italian too.

Exercise 11. Fill in the blanks using the modal perfect passive.

1. Your teacher is angry with you. Your homework ... (should hand in) a week ago.
2. There is no flight to Paris. It ... (must cancel) earlier today.
3. The milk is sour. It ... (must leave) out of the fridge.
4. The director is late for work. He ... (might delay) by the traffic.
5. It was Susan's birthday last week. Her grandmother ... (ought to invite) to her party.

Exercise 12. Choose the correct answer.

Santorini is a Greek island in a group which (is known, was known) as the Cyclades Islands. Out of 56 islands, only 24 of them (have been inhabited, are inhabited). On Milos, one of these islands, the famous sculpture "The Venus de Milo" (was discovered, has been discovered).

Santorini is very popular with tourists. It (had been formed, was formed) from a volcano and petrified lava. In Fira, the main tourist centre, many shops (are opened, were opened) where local jewellery, pottery and leather goods (are selling, are sold).

Travelling north to the little town of Oia, The reds and purples of the volcanic lava (can be seen, should be seen). The ancient city of Thira (locates, is located) in the southeast of the island. It (had been found, was founded) by the Dorians in the ninth century BC. The city is in ruins because of a volcanic eruption. Bus tours (are being organized, are organized) by local companies to all these sites.

Exercise 13. Choose the correct answer.

The art of the world is in danger. Many great works of art (had been stolen, are being stolen) from galleries, museums and archaeological sites all over the world. In 1990, 200 million dollars' worth of rare paintings (had been removed, were removed) from a Boston museum. These paintings simply disappeared and (couldn't be seen, haven't been seen) since.

In Italy, for example, art treasures such as icons and tapestries (will be taken, were taken) by people who visit churches looking for items that (are being stolen, could be stolen) easily because there are no security guards there. A collection of German gold and silver religious objects (was found, has been found) in Texas recently. Americans looted them during World War Two. Museums and

dealers (have been accused, were being accused) by the police of helping the thieves because they (continue, are continuing) to buy statues and paintings without the documents showing where they came from. A magazine called Trace (was established, established) four years ago to track down missing art treasures. Experts (have estimated, are estimating) that the theft of art treasures stands at \$6 million a year. It's big business.

Exercise 14. Paraphrase the following.

1. We have reserved a table for dinner at the Hilton.
A table...
2. They were selling tickets for the concert all morning.
Tickets...
3. Are all the students registered before the school year starts?
(they)
4. After we had serviced the car, we took a holiday
(been)
5. The Knesset passes laws in Israel.
(by)
6. Are the hotel rooms cleaned every day?
(clean)
7. The white-fly is destroying melon crops in the USA.
Melon crops...
8. Everybody in this city knows him well.
He...
9. She didn't tell anyone about the phone call.
(told)
10. The school doesn't permit smoking.
Smoking...
11. Christopher Marlowe wrote those lines, not William
Shakespeare.
Those lines...
12. You don't have to pay this bill until next year.
This bill...
13. No one has ever driven this car before.
(never)
14. The US government doesn't approve of insecticides in
California.
Insecticides

15. The UN has flown experts into Somalia to organize relief work.
Experts...
16. An anonymous caller tipped off the police.
(by)
17. Acid rain is destroying the forests of Germany.
The forests...
18. Many tourists visit Bangkok's Grand Palace when they go to Thailand.
Bangkok's Grand Palace...
19. The ancient Egyptians used papyrus to write on.
Papyrus...
20. Was your doctor notified of your illness?
Did...
21. I will have finished this report by next Wednesday.
This report...
22. What a pity! They didn't use this camera to film the wedding.
This camera...
23. The immigration department will have to consider my application for a passport.
My application...
24. Art thieves have looted temples in Cambodia.
Cambodia's temples...
25. The date for returning this book was yesterday.
(have)

Exercise 15. Fill each of the gaps in the following newspaper extracts with one of the passive verb phrases.

is deemed, could soon be fitted, were charged, has been held, has finally been elected, is expected, being caused, to be printed, is auctioned being considered

1. High-tech "leg-irons" ... on violent suspects arrested by the police, under plans ... by chief constables.
2. Last week, police in Scotland called for the introduction of leg-restraints following concerns about the number of injuries ... during struggles in the back of police cars and vans.
3. Four people ... last night with public disorder offences after officers mounted dawn raids on suspected football hooligans.

4. Hugh Hefner, founder of *Playboy*, ... to the American Society of Magazine Editors' Hall of Fame.
5. A first-edition copy of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, the first book ... in England, ... to raise at least \$500,000 when it ... in July.
6. A British woman released early from an attempted murder sentence in the United States – a charge which she has always denied - ... in prison because she ... an illegal immigrant.

Exercise 16. Add the appropriate extra information (a-e) to the passive sentences (1-5)

1. The news was leaked to the press by the minister ...
 2. The minister was attacked by protesters, ...
 3. I remember being sent a letter by a man in America ...
 4. The winning goal was scored by Fausto Ferrini ...
 5. A man was run over by a car ...
- a. in his first appearance for the club.
 - b. Who had waited outside the building all day to voice their opposition to the policies.
 - c. In a deliberate attempt to boost his popularity.
 - d. Who complained my article was prejudiced against his country.
 - e. Which witnesses said was being driven at very high speed.

Exercise 17. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage with one suitable word.

Twenty-four hours after arriving in the country, I ... told to leave. The security police, the country's largest employer, came to my hotel, politely asked me what I thought of the city and then recommended that I leave on the morning plane. I asked them why I was ... expelled and they said it was not a question of ... being '... out', they were simply recommending that I leave. I refused and the problems started. My passport and plane ticket ... stolen from my room after my key 'disappeared'. The police shrugged their shoulders and decided not to interview the leather-jacketed youth who I ... been ... up against in the lift. For three days I was ... by two not very secret policemen everywhere I went. I visited a fellow-journalist whose address ... had ... given. He lived in a beautiful old house which would ... demolished the following year by the

Government to make way for a block of “modern” flats. Everybody would be ... in it as soon as it was ready but where they would live in the meantime had not been ... out. Massive taxation was ... imposed on the people to pay for these supposed improvements. I went back to the hotel, still ... followed by the two policemen, and felt very depressed.

Exercise 18. Here is the beginning of a report of an experiment. Rewrite it, putting verbs in the passive where appropriate and making any other necessary changes.

I conducted the test in the school library to minimize noise. I took the children out of their normal lessons and I tested them in groups of four. I carried out all the tests in January 1996. The test consisted of two components. First, I showed the children a design (I presented these in Chapter 3) and I asked them to describe what they saw. I tape recorded all their answers. I then gave them a set of anagrams (words with jumbled letters) which I instructed them to solve in as short a time as possible. I remained in the room while the children did this...

Structures with *get* and *have*

1. Causatives

We can use *get* and *have* in both active and passive patterns when we talk about making other people do something for us.

The **active** pattern, meaning ‘cause or order someone to do something’, is *get* + person + to-infinitive, or *have* + person + infinitive without to:

I’ll get the waiter to bring you the menu.

I’ll have the waiter bring you the menu.

The passive pattern, meaning ‘arrange for somebody else to do something’, is *get/have* + object + past participle:

I’ll have/get the menu brought to you.

I had to get/have my jacket cleaned after the party.

I must go and get/have my photo taken for my new passport.

I’ll get/have those copies made for you immediately.

She’s getting/having her teeth fixed.

2. Get + -ed: Active and Passive

We can sometimes use *get* instead of *be* in the passive. This is usually informal:

*They **got punished** by the principal for making so much noise.*

*Lucky Paul **got promoted/elected/chosen/appointed** yesterday.*

Get meaning ‘become’ is often used in collocation with some past participles:

Get dressed, get married, get used to, get stuck, get lost, get caught, get burned, get involved

The meaning of these phrases can be active:

***I got dressed** as quickly as I could.*

Others have a passive meaning:

*How did they **get caught**?*

We can use some of the active phrases with an object:

*I have to **get the children dressed** early every morning.*

*Don't **get your family involved** in the business.*

3. Things that happen to you

We use *have* + object + past participle to describe things that happen to us, often misfortunes. The subject is the person who experiences what happened:

*I've **had my car stolen**. (Compare: *My car was stolen.*)*

*He's **had his application for citizenship turned down**.*

*(Compare: *His application for citizenship has been turned down.*)*

*My mother' **had her letter published** in *The Times*.*

*(Compare: *My mother's letter has been published in The Times.**

In spoken English we can sometimes use *get* instead of *have*.

*She **has got another letter published** in *The Times*.*

Exercise 19. Complete each of the following sentences using a causative form.

1. Can it be true that you're really going to deliver my sofa today?

Can it be true that I'm today?

2. One of the others agreed to post my letters for me.

I got to post my letters for me.

3. My dentist is supposed to be capping my two front teeth this morning.

I'm this morning.

4. My car really needs servicing.

I really serviced.

5. Why did you let them go without signing the receipt?

Why didn't you letting them go?

Exercise 20. Rearrange the words to make sentences.

1. your, ever, your, house, belongings, into, any, and, had, broken, of, you.

Have stolen?

2. fingerprints, police, your, on, you, never, had, files, have, can, put, you.

Once relax.

3. something, get, got, have, done, just, about, this, to.

You office.

4. your, I, not, passport, help, would, got, have, my, for.

But stamped.

5. us, organized, get, at, can, the, everything, of, all, same.

All time.

6. care, any, take, to, must, such, involved, dangerous, in, family, your, not, get,

You situations.

7. arrested, taxed, if, will, get, you, car, be, almost, and, certainly, don't your.

You insured.

8. interest, Government, seems, to, never, to, brought, get, under, able, rates, be.

The control.

Exercise 21. Fill in the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

1. I keep getting headaches so I'm going ... tested.

2. It's unpleasant for children when they ... names by other children.

3. I've just ... taken for my new passport.

4. My handbag was completely flattened after it ... on in the bus.

5. My husband's been to the hairdresser: I really wish he ... so short.
6. I know you don't approve of my new hair colour but you'll just ... to it.

Exercise 22. Fill each gap with one suitable word.

It was last May, while we were taking our annual late spring break on Lindos that we ... our house broken into. All our TV and video equipment got ... , but what was worse was when we discovered that the final draft of my husband's latest novel torn into pieces and the discs he writing it on ... disappeared. Of course, you hear about people who their properties vandalized and others whose most prized possessions taken, but it's a terrible shock when it happens to you, when you know that your home invaded, and that you your most intimate belongings handled and examined by strangers.

Ergative verbs. Changing the subject without using the passive.

With some transitive verbs we can change the subject of a sentence without using the passive. We don't mention or even imply an agent. Verbs that allow us to change the subject to 'the thing affected by the action' without using the passive are called 'ergative' verbs. By changing the subject of the sentence in this way, the active transitive verb becomes intransitive:

The dog opened the door. (active).

The door was opened by the dog.(passive)

The door opened.(ergative)

Some more examples of ergative verbs:

*The whistle **blew**. That jumper **does up** at the neck. The car **crashed** into a post. The soup **thickened** Her voice **records** well. She **photographs** very well. Your composition **reads** well. Black jeans **are selling** well. This skirt **creases** so easily.*

Most verbs that we can use in this way describe **change of some kind**.

*His life **changed** completely. Their clothes **had dried** by the time they got home. Her pencil **broke** because she was pressing too hard.*

Other verbs used in this way include: **begin, vary, decrease, expand, increase, open, close, finish, fade, stretch, crack, smash**

Some verbs that can be used in this way describe **movement of some kind**.

A car **reversed** round the corner. The plane **landed** on time. That new restaurant **has moved**.

Other verbs used in this way include: **turn, stop, fill, shake, spin, sail, tip, shift, bounce**.

Another group of verbs that we can use in this way relate to **cooking**.

Stir until the sugar **has dissolved**. After the stock **has simmered** for an hour, add seasoning.

Other verbs used in this way include: **bake, boil, cook, fry, melt, toast, thicken, burn, heat up, cool down, warm, brown, freeze, thaw**.

Exercise 23. Find mistakes in the following sentences. Correct them.

1. The Titanic was sunk by an iceberg. The boat sank without trace.
2. This shirt dries extremely quickly. Her hair soon dried by the wind.
3. The hole soon filled with water. The room was filled with hundreds of people.
4. The western shore washed by warm currents. Fertile soil washes down into the valleys.
5. My dress ripped when it caught in the car door. His newspaper had been ripped into shreds.
6. The sacked workers compensated for the loss of earnings. He was compensated for his injuries.
7. My chair tipped backwards until it fell over. All the leftovers were tipped into a bin liner.
8. Inflation was increased over the last six months. My salary was increased by just over five per cent.
9. They've expanded production facilities at the old factory. Metal is expanded when heated.
10. The white Mercedes turned into the car park. The sign had been turned to face the opposite direction.

Литература

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