

PASSIVE VOICE ACROSS TENSES

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Describe processes, ongoing work and completed changes in the passive.

1. READ: A library renovation

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Mae: Why can't we use the main reading room?

Staff: It **is being redecorated**. The upstairs room is open.

Mae: Have the computers been moved up there too?

Staff: Yes, they **have been installed** near the windows.

Mae: Good. Will the main room reopen soon?

Staff: The floor **will be replaced** next week. Everything **must be checked** before we reopen.

2. GRAMMAR: Keep the tense, change the focus

Use be + past participle. Perfect passives include been; continuous passives include being.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Ongoing work	is/are being + participle	The room is being painted.
Completed change	has/have been + participle	Computers have been installed.
Future / modal	will/must be + participle	The floor will be replaced.

Past continuous: The room was being painted when I arrived.

Past perfect: The chairs had been moved before the work began.

Keep both time and meaning: They are repairing it -> It is being repaired.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. The road is being repair / repaired now.
2. The seats have been replace / replaced.
3. It will be finish / finished tomorrow.
4. The form must be sign / signed.
5. The door was being painted / been painted when I arrived.
6. The bags had been / being checked before we left.
7. The room hasn't been clean / cleaned yet.
8. New lights are be / being installed today.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Renovating a library

Use the appropriate passive form for the time and meaning. Include all necessary auxiliaries.

1. The main room _____ (redecorate) at the moment.
2. The computers _____ (already / install) upstairs.
3. The floor _____ (will / replace) next week.
4. Every safety system _____ (must / check) before opening.
5. When I arrived, the chairs _____ (still / move) by the workers.
6. The old carpet _____ (remove) before the new floor was laid.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Change to the passive.

Example: They are painting it. **It is being painted.**

1. They have repaired the lift.
2. They were painting the room.

3-4: Change to the passive. Example: They will check it. **It will be checked.**

3. They will replace the door.
4. They must check the lights.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Describe changes to a building or service: completed work, work in progress and planned work.

Example: **The roof has been repaired. The walls are being painted. New windows will be fitted.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Give a progress update on an imagined renovation.

Your partner asks what **has been done**, what **is being done** and what **will be done**.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A library renovation

Sample target language from the conversation:

Staff: It **is being redecorated**. The upstairs room is open.

Staff: Yes, they **have been installed** near the windows.

Staff: The floor **will be replaced** next week. Everything **must be checked** before we reopen.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. repaired | 2. replaced |
| 3. finished | 4. signed |
| 5. being painted | 6. been |
| 7. cleaned | 8. being |

B. COMPLETE: Renovating a library

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. is being redecorated | 2. have already been installed |
| 3. will be replaced | 4. must be checked |
| 5. were still being moved | 6. had been removed (was removed also possible) |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. The lift has been repaired.
2. The room was being painted.
3. The door will be replaced.
4. The lights must be checked.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: The seats have been replaced. The floor is being cleaned. The lights will be checked.

Teacher note: Check been versus being and keep the original tense in transformations. B5 targets work in progress; a completed-event passive would change the focus.