

Active Voice:Cooper **hijacked** the plane.

subject

object

Passive Voice:The plane **was hijacked** by Cooper.

subject

be + p.p.

object

What is the tense used in each of these sentences?

1. The flight attendant was handed a note by a mysterious middle-aged man.
2. The plane proceeded to Seattle with none of the passengers even aware that it was being hijacked.
3. Cooper has not been seen or heard from since that night.
4. ...was he killed trying to commit the perfect crime?
5. He received \$200,000, all in twenty-dollar bills that had been photocopied by the FBI.
6. ...the area has been searched but no trace of Cooper has been found.
7. Jerry Thomas thinks that...eventually his body will be found.

Be careful! Only transitive verbs (those that can be followed by an object) can be made passive.

Intransitive verbs (those that cannot be followed by an object) cannot be made passive.

No one **has seen** Cooper since 1971. → Cooper **has not been seen** since 1971.

Several people **died** in the accident. → NOT: Several people ~~were~~ **died** in the accident.

An earthquake **happened**. →

A careless driver **killed** her dog. → **X**
Her dog was killed by a careless driver.

Why do we use the passive?

The money **was stolen**. We don't know who performed the action.

The plane **was refueled**. The person who performed the action is not important.

Many mistakes **were made**. We want to avoid mentioning the agent (the doer).

The thief **was caught** by the detective. We want to focus on the receiver or the result of the action instead of the agent (the doer).

When do we use "by"?

The money was stolen **by a person who has a criminal record.**

c. to introduce new information about the agent

The bills were photocopied **by FBI agents.**

a. to credit someone who did something

The money was found **by a little boy.**

b. when the agent is surprising

***You can omit the *by* phrase in passive sentences if you feel it is unnecessary or undesirable to mention the agent.**

Why hasn't this crime been solved ~~by the police?~~

Modals used in the passive

The criminal **should be arrested**.

He **could have been arrested** before this.

present passive → modal + **be** + past participle

past passive → modal + **have been** + past participle

have (got) to

had better

had to

must

ought to

should

In passive sentences, these modals express *advisability, obligation, and necessity*.

*The charges **had to be dropped**.*

can

could

Express present and past *ability*.

*Suspects **can't be kept** in jail.*

will

be going to

Express *future events*.

*The prisoners **are going to be released**.*

can't

could

may

might

Express *future possibility and impossibility*.

*The mystery **may never be solved**.*

Causative passive.

have/get + object + past participle

We **had** our house **inspected** by Jim.



Used to talk about services or activities that people arrange for someone else to do.

Sometimes criminals **get** their hair **dyed**.

I **get** my hair **cut** every 8 weeks.



Make a sentence about a service you've arranged someone to do for you:

***Be careful! Don't confuse the simple past causative with the past perfect.**

They **had** the grass **cut**.

They **had cut** the grass.