Passive Voice

CEFR B2 · Reporting passives, the get-passive and passive infinitives

WS1 Reporting Passives · WS2 have/get something done & get-passive · WS3 Passive Infinitives & -ing · WS4 Analysis & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Reporting Passives

Name: _____ *Date:* _____ *Level: B2 (CEFR)*

Reference: "It is said that…" / "He is said to…"

To report beliefs, claims and rumours impersonally, we use two passive patterns with verbs like *say, believe, think, know, report, expect, consider*: the **it**-pattern (*It is said that…*) and the **subject + to-infinitive** pattern (*He is said to…*). Use a **perfect infinitive** (*to have + pp*) for an earlier time.

Active / statement	It-pattern	Subject + to-infinitive
People say he is rich.	It is said that he is rich.	He is said **to be** rich.
They believe she left.	It is believed that she left.	She is believed **to have left**.
Experts think it works.	It is thought that it works.	It is thought **to work**.

Part A – Rewrite Both Ways

1. People say the castle is haunted. → It _____ / The castle _____.
2. They believe the thief escaped abroad. → The thief _____.
3. Experts expect prices to fall. → Prices _____.

Part B – Present or Perfect Infinitive?

1. People think she lives in Paris now. → She is thought _____.
2. People think she moved to Paris last year. → She is thought _____.
3. They report that the company is losing money. → The company is reported _____.

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: have/get something done & the get-passive

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Causative and Informal Passives

Use **have/get + object + past participle** to say someone does a service **for you** (you don't do it yourself): *I had my hair cut*. The **get-passive** (*get + pp*) is common in informal English and often describes something sudden, unplanned, or with an effect on the subject: *He got fired*.

Structure	Meaning	Example
have sth done	arrange a service	We **had** the car **serviced**.
get sth done	same, more informal	I **got** my photo **taken**.
get-passive	informal; sudden/unplanned	They **got caught** in the rain.
have sth done (bad)	experience (often negative)	She **had** her bag **stolen**.

Part A – have/get something done

1. (arrange) I _____ (my hair / cut) yesterday.
2. (arrange) We're going to _____ (the kitchen / paint) next week.
3. (bad experience) He _____ (his phone / steal) on the bus.

Part B – Rewrite with the get-passive

1. He was invited to the party. → _____
2. The vase was broken during the move. → _____
3. They were married last summer. → _____

Part C – Which Structure?

Choose *have sth done*, *get-passive*, or a normal passive, and say why.

#	Situation	Structure + reason
1	You pay a mechanic to fix your brakes.	
2	Your window was smashed by vandals (informal chat).	
3	A treaty was signed in 1990 (formal report).	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Passive Infinitives & -ing Forms

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Passives After Verbs, Modals and Prepositions

The passive also appears as an **infinitive** (*to be done*) and a **gerund** (*being done*). Use them after modals (*must be done*), certain verbs (*want to be told*), prepositions (*afraid of being seen*), and to make impersonal instructions.

Form	Use	Example
to be + pp	after want/need/have to/modals	This needs **to be checked**.
being + pp	after prepositions / as subject	She hates **being interrupted**.
having been + pp	earlier passive action	**Having been warned**, he left.
modal + be + pp	obligation/possibility	It **must be finished** today.

Part A – Complete with a Passive Infinitive or -ing

1. The report needs _____ (send) today.
2. No one likes _____ (criticise) in public.
3. The documents have _____ (sign) by Friday.
4. She's worried about _____ (not / invite).
5. The machine should _____ (repair) before use.

Part B – Rewrite Using a Passive Form

1. Someone needs to clean this. → This _____.
2. People don't like it when others watch them. → People don't like _____.
3. You must submit the form. → The form _____.

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Passage Analysis

The painting, which is believed to have been stolen in the 1970s, has finally been recovered. It is said to be worth millions. According to the gallery, the work had been kept in a private collection for decades before it was offered for sale. The owner, who got arrested last week, is thought to have known its true origin. The painting will now be examined by experts and, if it is confirmed to be genuine, it is expected to be returned to the museum.

1. Find two reporting passives and rewrite each as an active "People say/believe…" sentence.
2. Identify the get-passive and explain why it (rather than *was*) suits the context.
3. "had been kept … before it was offered" uses a past perfect passive. Explain the sequence.
4. Why does the writer use so many passives here? Discuss the effect on focus and tone.

Part B – Extended Writing

Write 160–190 words: a news report or formal account of an event or discovery. You must include and underline: (1) at least one **reporting passive** (it-pattern or subject + to-infinitive); (2) at least one **have/get something done** or **get-passive**; (3) at least one **passive infinitive or -ing**; (4) passives in at least two tenses; (5) consistent register.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

Reporting: _____ / 1 have/get: _____ / 1 Non-finite: _____ / 1 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Passive Voice

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 It is said that the castle is haunted. / The castle is said to be haunted. · 2 The thief is believed to have escaped abroad. · 3 Prices are expected to fall.

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 to live in Paris (present) · 2 to have moved to Paris (perfect — earlier) · 3 to be losing money

Present infinitive = same time as the reporting; perfect infinitive = earlier time.

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 had my hair cut · 2 have the kitchen painted · 3 had his phone stolen

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 He got invited to the party. · 2 The vase got broken during the move. · 3 They got married last summer.

Worksheet 2 – Part C (model)

1 have sth done — you arrange the service ("have my brakes fixed"). · 2 get-passive — informal, sudden/negative ("got smashed"). · 3 normal passive — formal register ("was signed").

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 to be sent · 2 being criticised · 3 to be signed · 4 not being invited · 5 be repaired

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 This needs to be cleaned. · 2 People don't like being watched. · 3 The form must be submitted.

Worksheet 4 – Part A (model)

1 "is believed to have been stolen" → People believe it was stolen…; "is said to be worth millions" → People say it is worth millions; "is thought to have known" → People think he knew. · 2 "got arrested" — get-passive suits the sudden, newsworthy, informalish event and highlights what happened to the owner. · 3 The keeping happened before the offering for sale; the past perfect passive marks the earlier of two past events. · 4 The passives keep the focus on the painting (the topic), avoid naming unknown agents (thieves), and lend an objective, formal, report-like tone.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Reporting passive	it-pattern or subject+to-inf, correct	0–5
have/get done / get-passive	Used appropriately	0–4
Passive non-finite	Infinitive or -ing passive correct	0–3
Range & register	Two+ tenses; consistent register; 160–190 words	0–3